

## **WORKING GROUP REPORTS: SESSION 3 METHODS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **Instructions**

- Appoint rapporteur
- Measuring objective deprivation: using needs-based criteria; other methods for researching
- Measuring subjective quality of life: using QOL instrument; other methods for researching QoL
- Measuring household resources: using RPF; other methods
- Suggestions of methods for researching at community, country and global levels
- Identify relevant ongoing studies

### **Group 1**

- There is a need for local definitions of:
  - objective poverty
  - subjective poverty
  - quality of life
  - rich/poor
- We need to know about the interface between objective and subjective measures; how are they going to be brought together?
- There is a need to accommodate the intermediary institutions and networks – kinship especially – and to define ‘household’
- Synchronising the results at various levels is going to be difficult
- Problems of ‘transparency’ of focus group discussions
- Scaling problems in research – how are peasants going to respond to questions of very satisfied, quite satisfied etc (one participant said this was ‘rubbish’ in the Ethiopian context)
- Problems of generating wealth and income data through surveys by people the locals do not know; it takes time to build the trust necessary for accurate answers
- The issue of language in relation to fieldwork is very important
- Research fatigue exists in the 15 sites – how to overcome it; consider a poverty research activity in conjunction with the research?
- Need local definitions of ‘family’, ‘individual’, ‘child’, ‘adult’, ‘old’
- The gender dimensions of poverty are important

### **Group 2**

- There is a need to develop a working definition of ‘households’; is it:
  - a family unit
  - a production unit
  - modes/patterns of marriage
  - kinship network
- Quantitative/archival data methods could be used to measure household resources relative to household physical assets  
rainfall patterns  
agricultural/farm inputs such as fertiliser, seeds and pesticides etc
- Qualitative/participatory methods could be used to assess  
social resources (institutional coverage)  
networkings (relationships between people)  
household decision-making (structured interviews, PRA/RRA techniques, focus group discussions etc.
- There is a need to triangulate/supplement each of these data collection instruments by others