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CIEA Seminar 2006 – Grangeneuve, Posieux / Switzerland



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Effective Learning for Sustainable Action: SDC Insight and Outlook

Speech
by Ambassador **Walter Fust**,
SDC Director-General

MDGs and the SDC Strategy 2010



- SDC strategy 2010's main goal is to reduce poverty and therefore contributes to the international community's efforts
- achieving the MDGs requires a special effort devoted to promoting rural development and fostering better living conditions of the rural poor
- basic and vocational education are key elements for reaching the MDGs, particularly in rural areas
- SDC is supporting basic and vocational education initiatives throughout the world – the CIEA seminar is one of them

poverty in rural areas (1/2)



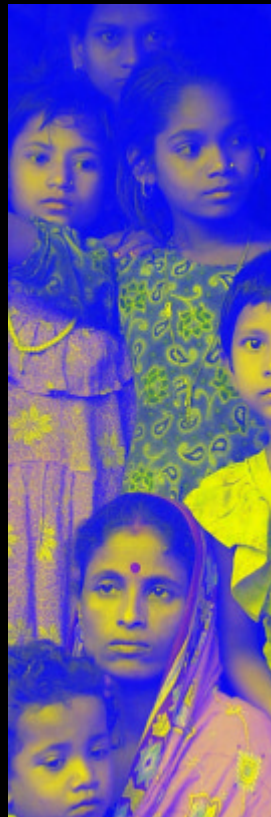
- the majority of the world population is rural and 70 % of the world poor are in rural areas - despite of urbanisation processes no dramatic changes expected by 2015
- women are particularly vulnerable and a significant proportion of the rural population is less than 20 years old
- rural people lack access to adequate basic social services because rural areas have a low national priority as rural people lack political voice, especially the poor
- rural/urban inequalities are a major obstacle to sustainable development

poverty in rural areas (2/2)



- rural labour is cheap because gainful employment options are limited
- rural people have agriculture as main occupation – they deal with production, transformation and marketing of food and non-food agricultural products and services
- farm and non-farm activities are equally important
- rural areas are very much dependent on urban centres where the markets are

skills development in rural areas (1/2)



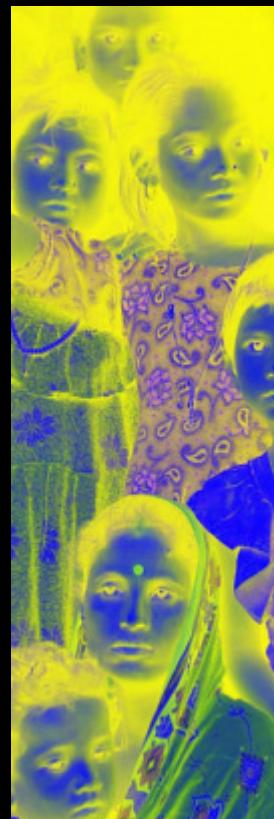
- skills development in rural areas faces the same type of problems as in urban areas, however in a more acute manner
- not only production/technical skills, organisational skills or financial/managerial skills, but also basic or communal skills are important
- skills development has often to be linked with basic education as many people in rural areas are illiterate (esp. women)

skills development in rural areas (2/2)



- skills development has to be oriented towards economic potential, social conditions and environment
- women have to be given particular attention as they often do not have the possibility to attend long term training far away from their home
- job markets and income opportunities have to be considered when designing and promoting training

effective learning for sustainable action



- put the people in the centre of the picture
- curricula based on job profiles – job profiles defined by the professional of the branch (not the training specialists!)
- call for innovative approaches – e.g. modular, flexible delivery in place of long initial learning, mix of theory and practice
- integrative, articulated approaches from basic education to continuous education (in the sense of life-long learning)
- foster joint learning processes among training providers

CIEA seminar 2006



- topic for the CIEA seminar 2006 is important: effectiveness and sustainability are key concerns for reaching the goal of poverty reduction – it is particularly true in rural areas
- in order to reach it innovative approaches have to be developed – in some cases, delivery mechanisms have to be reinvented
- we wish you a thoughtful and fruitful seminar and hope it will serve you in your work

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Thank You!

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