Poverty Indices

The selection of an appropriate level of welfare is reflected in the choice of a cut-off or poverty line. Apart from the selection of a poverty line, the measurement of poverty generally focuses on computing three indices. These reflect:

- (a) The prevalence or incidence of poverty as measured by the fraction in the total population living below the poverty line i.e. the head-count;
- (b) The intensity of poverty reflected in the extent to which the income of the poor lies below the poverty line, as measured by the differences between the two, i.e., the poverty gap;
- (c) The degree of inequality among the poor in such a way that income transfers from the worse among the poor to the less poor should raise measured poverty and vice versa, i.e., the severity of poverty index.

Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984) have suggested a useful general index that meets these requirements. Their class of poverty indices takes the following form:

$$P = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{q} [(Z_p - Y_i) / Z_p]^{\alpha}$$

where Z_p denotes the poverty line, Y_i the expenditure or income of the I-the poor household (or individual), N the total number of households and q the number of households whose expenditures or incomes are below the poverty line and expenditure or income of the poor as a fraction of the poverty line $[Z_p - Y_i]/Z_p$, raising it to a power α and then summing over all poor units. Not only does the index take into account the prevalence and intensity of poverty; it may also be used to reflect the degree of inequality among the poor by varying the value of the α parameter.

Thus, if α =0, index $P_{\alpha \, becomes}$ P_0 = q/N, which has been referred to as *the head-count index*. It reflects the proportion of total population lying below the poverty line, i.e. the proportion of poor in the total population. This measure is indifferent to the extent of poverty of the poor. It is only sensitive to their number and reflects the prevalence of poverty.

Alternatively, with α =1, the poverty index $P_{\alpha \text{ becomes}}$:

$$P_1 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{q} [Z_p - Y_i] / Z_p = IP_0$$

where I is the "income gap ratio", i.e. the mean income gap of the poor $(Z_p - Y)$ where $Y = \sum Y_i / q$ is the mean expenditure (income) of the poor expressed as a fraction of the poverty line. Thus, P_1 is the income gap ratio multiplied by the head-count index. This index gives a good measure of the extent or intensity of poverty as it reflects how far the poor are below from the poverty line. It may also be used to show the amount of income, under perfect targeting, that needs to be transferred to the poor to close the poverty gap in order to eradicate poverty. However, P_1 is insensitive to income distribution among the poor. Income transfers between the poor will leave P_1 unchanged. For this to be reflected in the index, greater weight has to be given to the poorest units. This can be achieved by setting α =2.

If α =2, the poverty index becomes

$$P_{2} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{q} [(Z_{p} - Y_{i}) / Z_{p}]^{2}$$

 P_2 is the mean squared proportionate poverty gap. This index is not easy to interpret as compared to P_0 and P_1 . However, it has the advantage of reflecting the degree of inequality among the poor, in the sense that the greater the inequality of distribution among the poor and thus the severity of poverty, the higher is P_2 .

This class of poverty indices is additive. It permits the summing up of poverty indices for various subgroups in the population.

Abbreviations, descriptions and units of measurement for the degradation indices and 31 variables (grouped into six broad categories) used to develop the predictive models of land degradation in South Africa

Abbreviation	Variable name and description	Units
Degradation indices		46.
SDI	Soil degradation index	index value
VDI	Veld degradation index	index value
SDI + VDI	Sum of soil and veld degradation indices	index value
	To give a combined index	
Biophysical variab		
AREA	Area of the magisterial district	km²
ALT	Altitude: Mean height above sea level	m
SLOPE	Mean percentage change in altitude over	%
	A 1'X 1' "o	
RUNOFF	Runoff intensity calculated as the mean	million m ³
	Annual runoff per secondary catchment	
ERODIBILITY	An index of erodibility determined by slope,	1(high)-20 (low
	Soil type, rainfall intensity and land use	
FERTILITY	Soil fertility as a function of the clay content	0(low)-9 (high
	And base status of the soil	, , ,
Climatic variable	es	
MAR	Mean annual rainfall	mm
SAI	Summer aridity index defined as the sum	mm
	of the mean precipitation for the four hottest	
	months of the year	
MAP: PET	The ratio of mean annual precipitation Potential evapotranspiration	and prosphe
TMEAN	Mean annual temperature	mm
GROWDAYS	Duration of the moisture growing season	# of days
	February and the CCP	,
Land use	and the second s	
MERCIAL	% area of the magisterial district managed	%
	Under a favoured land tenure system	
% CROPS	% area of the magisterial district used for	%
	crops	

Continue	ed : ANNEX 2	ANNEXS	
	% VELD	% area of the magisterial district used for	%
	0/ EOD	grazing lands	0/
	% FOR	% area of the magisterial district used for	%
	9/ CON	commercial forests	level of states of the state of the
	% CON	% area of the magisterial district used for conservation areas and state land	%
	9/ CET		self into the
	% SET	% area of the magisterial district used for hur settlement	nan %
divers	% OTH	% area of the magisterial district used for oth	er %
realing		land use practices (e.g. mining, lakes)	#
Mary	LSU/HA	1995/96 stocking density (no. of cattle, shee	p LSU/ha
Land h		Goats and equines calculated in Large Stock	Units)
1	Demography		re smallholdings page
inches	POPDEN	Population density: 1991 census # o	f people/km ²
400000	%MALE	% composition of males in the population	%
	% 15-64	% composition of people between 15-64	%
		years of age in the population	
	%RURAL	% composition of people located in rural area	s %
147.14			alithen postelars, food desir
Jegrad	Labour and emp		publishes for land from other
in large	%UNEMPL	% of the labour force which is unemployed	%
police	AGREMPL	% of the formally employed labour force which	
Section 1		Employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing	
- Applied	LABAGROW	The employment growth performance index	
		of the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector	delian emission bout
1000		% of the provincial average	riage leading wile support to
1000000	#DEPEND	The total dependency ration. i.e. the number	# of people
degree		of people dependent on a household head	bilinger, lack of by the party
The same	Economic produc	<u>etion</u>	
Name .	GGP/CAP	Gross geographic product per capita	Rands/person
Live	AGRTOGGP	% contribution of agriculture, forestry and	%
		Fishing sector to the GGP	
		0/ average applied arough in a grigulture for	
	AGROWTH	% average annual growth in agriculture, for	prestry %
	AGROWTH	Fishing sector: 1981-1991	orestry %

Proposed Definitions of Land Types

Definition	Biophysical Constraints	Socio-Economic Constraints
Favoured land:		
Land having no or moderate limitations to sustained application under a given use. Moderate limitations will reduce benefits but an overall advantage will be gained from the use of inputs. Wide options for diversification. With roper management, risk of irreversible damage is low.	No or moderate constraints related to soil, climatic and terrain conditions. Soil fertility, if adequately maintained, is favourable. Relatively reliable rainfall and/or irrigation water.	The level of yields depends not only on favourable biophysical conditions, but also on accessibility to inputs, market and credit facilities, and beneficial output/input ratios.
Marginal land: Land having limitations, which in aggregate are severe for sustained application of a given use. Increased inputs to maintain productivity of benefits will be only marginally justified. Limited options for diversification without the use of inputs. With inappropriate management, risks or irreversible degradation.	Soil constraints (low fertility, poor drainage, shallowness, salinity), steepness of terrain, unfavourable climatic conditions ¹⁴ .	Absence of markets, difficult accessibility, restrictive land tenure, smallholdings, poor infrastructure, and unfavourable output/input ratios.
Fragile land: Land that is sensitive to land degradation, as a result of inappropriate human intervention. Sustained production requires specific management practices. Land use is limited to a narrow choice of options.	Soils of low fertility, erodible, steep terrain, and high groundwater levels, flood-prone.	Population pressure, food deficits competition for land from other sectors, unavailability or high cos of inputs.
Degraded land: Land that has lost part or all of its productive capacity as result of inappropriate human intervention ¹⁵ . Various forms and degrees of degradation, both reversible and irreversible, may occur. Rehabilitation of reversible forms of degradation requires investment.	Erosion, salinisation, fertility depletion, lack of adequate drainage on soils and terrain prone to deterioration.	Population pressure, land shortage, inadequate support to agriculture, lack of institutional framework, high cost of rehabilitation, lack of investment.

 $^{^{14}}$ The soil, The soil, terrain and climatic constraints applicable to marginal lands are described in Annex 1. The constraints may apply separately or cumulatively.

¹⁵ A distinction needs to be made between reversible and irreversible forms of degradation. Some soils are vulnerable to nutrient depletion, but are sufficiently resilient for soil fertility to be restored through good management.

Imperatives for Poverty-Oriented R &D and Dominant Characteristics of Current Research for MAs

2. Dominant Features of R & D by NARS/others 1. MA Context and R &D Imperatives and Gaps between (1) and (2) Considerable R & D results on soil-moisture A. Imperatives of Soil and Slope Related Constraints (e.g., erodibility, fragility, low fertility, conservation measures; agroforestry, crops (coarse grains, legumes to suit MAL). But work less oriented low depth, etc.): Technology for Resource building, stabilizing, to local situations; focus on intensification ignoring extension and system context; not enough learning upgrading, protection, conservation; Crop types: shallow rooted, nitrogen fixing; annual-perennial from indigenous systems; impacts in scattered compatibility, favouring intensive-extensive land pockets; domination of product-centered over uses; strengthening integrated framing systems resource-centered R & D. including the use of CPRs. Considerable results on drought resistant varieties; B. Imperatives of Water-related Constraints (e.g., water conservation. But not oriented to their role in short and fluctuating growing season, frequent farmers' overall strategies against moisture drought etc.): uncertainty, scarcity and diversification; watermanagement: small-scale water Moisture harvesting, moisture conservation measures; Crops harvesting/ moisture conservation technologies developed but their adoption still limited both due resistant to moisture uncertainty and scarcity; to scale factor and need for group action, as well as flexible input regimes; potential for multiple usage inability to link them with total farming system. and salvage value as well as diversification. Work focused on limited and their attributes (e.g., C. Imperative of diversity based opportunities and grain yield and not total biomass), ignoring the need constraints: for diversification, and harnessing location-specific Site-specific Technologies for crops and resource niche with high pay-off; limited learning from management to suit soil/slope/moisture and traditional systems for adapting to limitations and infrastructural diversity involving crops/livestock/vegetation; focus on minor crops, opportunities of MAs. niche opportunities, common property resources, etc., in a "systems framework". Despite good work on farming systems, research has D. Imperatives of biophysical conditions related to social processes: Strong agro-ecosystem social been persistently top-down disregarding indigenous systems and participatory approaches, resulting, system linkages to shape choice and design of resulting partly from subdiary role of social science; production options and practices as a part of inadequate attention to institutional aspects. Institutional diversified farming system;

Source: Adapted from Jodha (1991)

arrangements for resource-use regulation.

NNEX 5

		Reas	ons for LUT Area	
Land Use Type (LUT)	Area Trend	Decreasing	Increasing	
Cropland	THE STATE OF LABOR.			
Grazing Land				
Forest (Commercial)				
Conservation				
Settlements				
Other				
Complete Com		Reasons f	or LUT Area Intensity	
Land Use Type (LUT)	Area Trend	Decreasing	Increasing	
Cropland	e			
Grazing Land				
Forest (Commercial)				
Conservation			ellin 1913 III Dramostaci is of 12 cm	
Settlements				
Other				
D stable over last 10 years		Reasons	for soil degradation	
Land Use Type (LUT)	Area Trend	Decreasing	Increasing	
Cropland	AT THE PERSON	The state of the s	A Marian Marian Company	
Grazing Land		The Design of Indiana Security	Michael Michael Michael Michael	
Forest (Commercial)		lieur Overall wine ideposition		
Conservation				
Settlements		Total Control Control	A Designation of the Control of the	
Other			2. Medicaled december 18 18 Chance in the	
		Reasons for veld degradation		
Land Use Type (LUT)	Area Trend	Decreasing	Increasing	
Grazing Land				

Data sheet used for determining land use trends and status of natural resources during the 12 degradation workshops.

Name:			District:				Region:			Prov	ince:			- 4032	Favour Margin	Street	
	Land U	Jse			H I I I	Soil Degr	adation					V	eld Degr	adation		TEL.	
Land Use Type (LUT)	Area (% of district)		Intensity Trend	Туре	Degree	Extent	Severity	Rate	Soil Index	Туре	Species			Severity	Rate	Veld Index	
Cropland																	
Grazing land (veld)																	
Forestry (commercial)																	
Conservation								HE31H									
Settlements																	Total for
Other) i															both Indices
Гotal Area	100%		Total soil degradation				on index				Vel	d degrad	ation inc	dex			

Area	

- -2: rapidly decreasing (>2% per year)
- -1: decreasing (0-2% per year)
- 0: stable over last 10 years
- 1: increasing (0-2% per year)
- 2: rapidly increasing (>2% per year)

Intensity Trend

- -2: Major decrease
- -1: Moderate decrease
- 0: No major changes
- 1: Moderate increase
- 2: Major increase

Type of soil degradation

Water

Wt: Loss of topsoil by sheet erosion

Wd: Rill, gully, donga erosion

Wind

Et: Loss of topsoil by wind

Ed: Deflation hollows & dunes

Eo: Overflowing (deposition)

	Degree of soil	(&veld)	degradation
T ! - 1. (1 1

1: Light Somewhat reduced productivity, restoration possible. Biology intact

2: Moderate Greatly reduced productivity, major

improvements required for restoration Not reclaimable at farmer level, major

3: Strong Not reclaimable at farmer level, ma engineering works required.

4:Extreme Not reclaimable, beyond restoration.

Biology fully destroyed.

Extent

- 1: Infrequent (0-5% of LUT)
- 2: Common (6-10%)
- 3: Frequent(11-25%)
- 4: Very Frequent (26-50%)
- 5: Dominant (>50%)

			Sev	erity			
	- [100	Ex	ctent (% of	LUT)		
Degree		1 (0-5%)	2 (6-10%)	3 (11-25)	4 (26-50%)	5 (>50%)	
Light	1	1	1	2	2	3	
Moderate	2	1	2	3	3	4	
Strong	3	2	3	3	4	4	
Extreme	4	2	3	4	4	4	

Rate

- -3: Rapidly decreasing
- -2: Moderately decreasing
- -1: Slowly decreasing
- 0: No changes in 10 years
- 1: Slowly increasing
- 2: Moderately increasing
- 3: Rapidly increasing

Type of veld degradation

Ls: Change in composition

Be: Bush encroachment (species)

Ap: Alien plants (species)

Lc: Loss of cover

Df: Deforestation

Ot: Other