

AGRICULTURAL POLICY PROCESSES – PHASE II

Next steps... building on the proceedings of the Politics and Policy Processes Discussion Workshop for the 2008 World Development Report on 'Agriculture for Development'

FAC Policy Processes Team, 26 January 2007

1. WDR workshop on the politics of agricultural policy processes

On January 22-23, the Future Agricultures Consortium (FAC) hosted a workshop at the Institute of Development Studies (Brighton) on the politics of agricultural policy processes. The main purpose of this workshop was to engage with the World Development Report 2008 process and offer contributions on how to incorporate a political economy dimension into the report.

The workshop was attended by members of the WDR 2008 team, guests from academia and DFID as well as FAC members from IDS, ODI and Imperial College/Wye. The workshop consisted of presentations (WB on the WDR and FAC on ongoing work), plenary discussions and brainstorming sessions.

In addition to very fruitful exchanges and debates, the workshop generated two specific outputs:

- a list of policy messages emphasising, among other things: the importance of the political context and context specificities, need to bear in mind policy losers, trade-offs and barriers which determine the feasibility of policies (even if policy designs are good), short vs long-term trade-offs in decision-making, differences between advice/influence on policies and advice on the process of generating policies, etc.
- a tentative framework for analysing the political dimensions of policy design and implementation (attached).

The policy process theme work planned for phase II (specified in the concept notes for thematic and country work) will: build on the contributions made during the workshop, try to address some of the concerns expressed by the participants and test out the analytical framework generated from the discussions.

2. Next steps

Immediate steps:

The FAC offered to deliver three specific inputs to the WDR 2008 process:

- brief case studies on the policy processes related to the fertiliser issue in Malawi and the dairy issue in Kenya;
- an extended piece on the Ministries of Agricultures story with emphasis on design parameters; and
- a piece on decentralisation processes and outcomes (positive and negative).

The country briefs will serve as a way of deepening the preliminary analysis conducted so far as well as of testing out the robustness of the framework devised at the workshop. The short piece on Ministries of Agriculture will help us formulate hypotheses on the parameters of an ‘ideal type’ – to be explored in subsequent work.

Subsequent steps:

In addition, the Kenya and Malawi country teams will proceed with their detailed work on ‘successful’ experiences with agricultural policy change.

Two case-studies have been selected by the respective country teams:

- **Kenya:** dairy industry sector (preliminary findings presented at the workshop) and fertiliser market liberalisation.
- **Malawi:** fertiliser subsidy (preliminary findings presented at the workshop) and social protection (topic still to be refined).

The analysis of these case-studies will follow a common set of questions (with the necessary adaptations to the country context) to allow for cross-country comparison of findings. Guiding questions suggested earlier are:

Dimension	Questions
Context of reform	<p>What was the starting point? Who made what proposals, and using what arguments?</p> <p>What were the circumstances in the national and international environment at the time? Includes the structure of the economy, the previous performance of agriculture, the main characteristics of the sector, crises both human and natural, etc.</p>
Process: from initial idea, through drafting to approval	<p>What was the proposed content of the reforms? What were the arguments for reform? Who drafted the changes, and how?</p> <p>What arguments were raised against the reforms? Who was against the changes? How were disputes resolved?</p> <p>To what extent did reform enjoy broad support, or was pushed through in spite of doubt, opposition and protest?</p> <p>What political processes were required before the changes were approved? Look at the roles of: government agencies, Parliaments, private sector, civil society, donors.</p>
Process: implementation	<p>What did implementing the reform entail? How administratively simple were the reforms? How many agencies involved?</p> <p>What obstacles were faced in implementation? How were they tackled?</p> <p>In what ways were the approved policies and programmes revised or modified during implementation?</p>
Outcomes	<p>What were the outcomes? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • production, trade balance – by different sub-sectors if necessary; • producer incomes – by different social groups, regions; • impacts on consumer welfare; • effects on the environment; and • any other outcomes reported. <p>To what extent did the reforms meet the original objectives? What unwelcome side-effects were seen?</p> <p>Has reform led to further changes, as doubters have been won over; or, conversely, has a failed reform led to reluctance to consider further changes?</p>

A synthesis analysis will be produced at the end pulling together the various examples, contrasting them and drawing out general messages.

The country case-studies on agricultural policy change will also form the basis for a more in-depth analysis of the roles ministries of agriculture are actually performing on the ground. Questions to be asked include whether (why and how) ministries of agriculture are *catalysts*, *deterrents* or *absentees* in the process of agricultural policy change. The details of this work will be refined along the way.

3. Indicative timeframe

- Country briefs for WDR: by mid-February
- Country case-studies on agricultural policy change: 4 final papers by mid-April
- Synthesis on agricultural policy change: first draft by mid-May (in time for EEA meeting in Ethiopia) and final draft after Ethiopia meeting (mid-July)
- MoA case-studies in Kenya, Malawi (and Ethiopia???) by mid-August
- MoA synthesis: by end of September

Tasks	Feb 07				Mar 07				Apr 07				May 07				Jun 07			
Kenya brief for WDR	■	■																		
Malawi brief for WDR	■	■																		
MoA brief for WDR	■	■																		
Kenya dairy sector study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Kenya input/fertiliser study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Malawi fertiliser subsidy study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Malawi social protection study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Synthesis of country studies													■	■				■	■	
Presentations at EEA meeting																		?	?	

(...)

Tasks	Jul 07				Ago 07				Sept 07				(...)				Feb 08			
Kenya MoA study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Malawi MoA study (?)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Synthesis MoA studies ¹																				
Presentations at FAC workshop																		?	?	

¹ This will include material from other country experiences, including Mozambique.

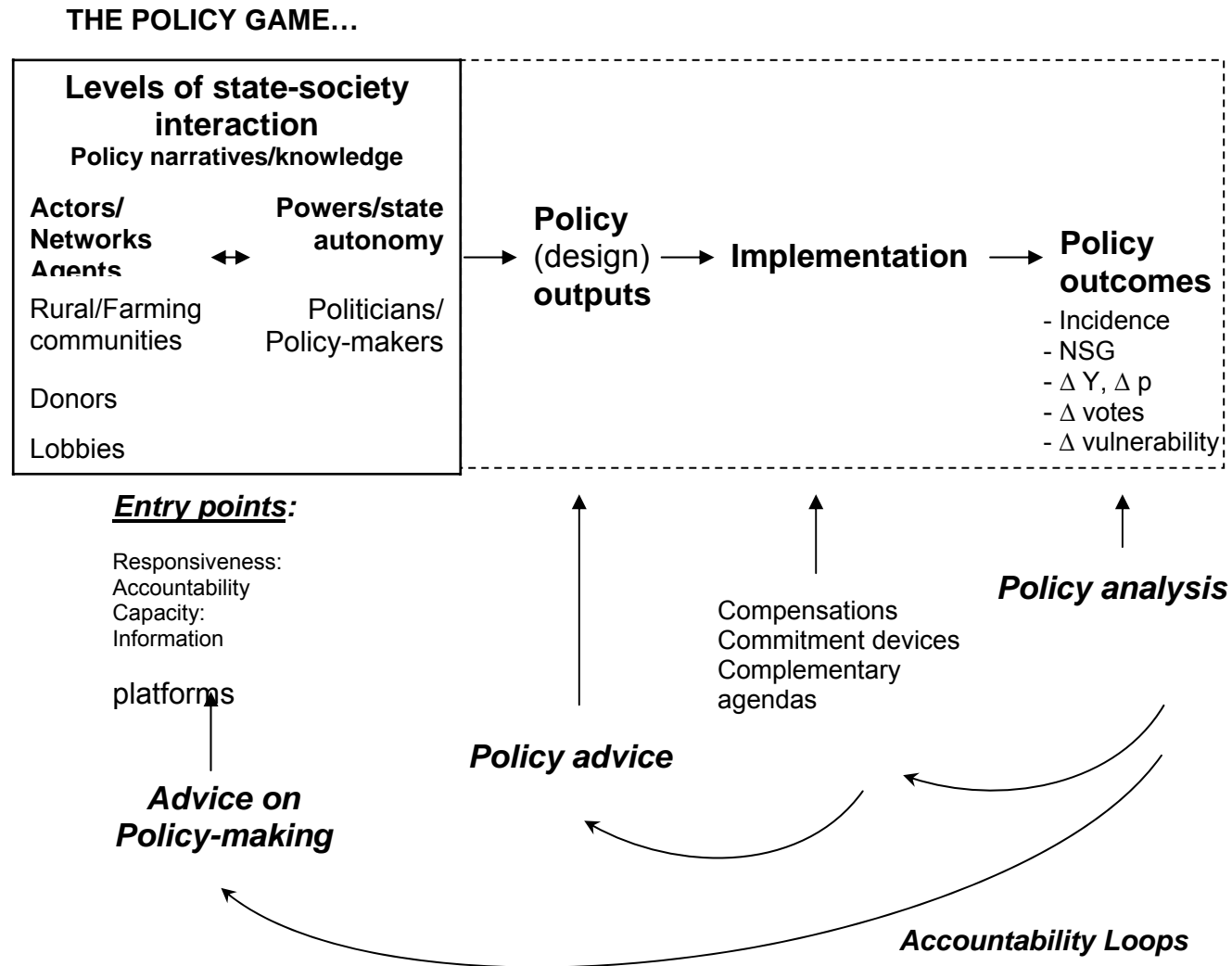
POLITICS AND POLICY PROCESSES FRAMEWORK

Structural Issues

CONTEXT FOR POLICY MAKING

- Constitution
- Presidential powers
- bureaucracy
- democracy (incl elections)
- culture
- nature

Entry points:
constitutional reforms
legal reforms...



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