

IPSI REGIONAL MEETING

Working Group 2 – Economic Incentives

1. Values of SEPLS and why important?

- Economic incentives may not be sufficient, need diversification of the concept of the values – positive incentives
- Incentives can be in the form of recognition for good landscape stewardship, while the main intention is to fulfill SEPLS at the local level
- Incentive is an entry point and also needs the balance between amount of incentive and local culture/traditions
- Incentive is to link local capacity, perception and buy time so communities start their conservation awareness and get benefits from good practices.
- Incentive is to empower, reform, not to disempower self-reliance capacity

Why positive incentives?

- Cultural practice is integrated into conservation. However, this practice has stopped due to changing of aspirations.
- Incentive may support changing behavior, motivations, and aspirations towards sustainable practices by applying cultural knowledge. This may make the communities more engaged (symbiosis relationships).
- Relationship (social capital) – incentive can provide coherence among communities
- Recognition – as form of incentives – can become motivations in providing ecosystem services for off-site communities such as downstream
- Communication is an important part in raising awareness and getting consensus on positive incentives

2. What aspects or practices can/should be mainstreamed?

- Ensure that incentive not becoming disincentive and perverse incentive.
- Encourage the scientists to maximize the application of technology for research.
- Effective planning, data sharing, management are important for mainstreaming.
- Establish baseline from and by local community using technology (and 'valid' methodologies) otherwise it is difficult to ensure its information robustness
- Strong community coherence and leadership of the local communities
- Diversification of livelihood options

3. What are some challenges to mainstreaming?

- Encroachment and illegal activities – examples from Tagal system – introduce faster growing species for increased returns
- Difficult to have standardize ecological index/baseline information and find robust methods to calculate such index and compline the baseline information
- Perverse subsidy and disincentive exist
- Existence of policy barriers, such as access and rights to resource uses.
- Efforts from the local community are being less heard due to lack of capacity to transfer their ideas, opinions, approaches.
- Unequitable distribution of resources
- Aligning local actions and government's regulations takes time.

4 & 5. Responses & Recommendations

- Remove policy barriers. Clear policy and regulation. Political will is important (targeting champions at all levels).
- Link to commodity market in producing environmental-friendly products (if possible standardized by national and international certifications). Quality and quantity control, appropriate technology, as prerequisite
- Enhanced use of information technology for planning and implementation.
- Build trust among stakeholders, including indigenous people. Initially by building joint conservation-management plans.
- Access to new ideas (including networking) resulting in innovations on sustainable practices and products/commodities. Keeping the benefits where the innovation is (i.e. Geographical Indicator).

4 & 5. Responses & Recommendations

- Long-term subsidy/incentive may not be sustainable, but short-term incentive will be able to help local community to reach the next stage of better livelihood and sustainability.
- Respect and understand communities' internal capacity and governance system, while devising incentive mechanisms.
- Empower community by setting internal M&E that might be specific for certain communities. This may be more functional compared to the introducing external system. However, the link with the larger system needs to be maintained.
- Capacity building to understand and re-formulate the best practices to own programs. This may include networking and cross-site visits.
 - One day of training for incentives – monitoring and evaluating the IPSI members' programs
 - Cross-sectoral learning (i.e. private sectors and NGOs that are IPSI members)
- Food, water and energy (i.e. security to all) as a proxy for sustainable practices may be more appropriate (compared to 'global' agenda such as climate change mitigation).