



How to make poverty history: The central role of local organisations in meeting the MDGs

Worrying trends

- Global warming underway and climate change impacts especially in LDCs
- MA 2005 showed major ecosystem threats
- Aid debates focus on volume of funding
- Direct budget support disempowers local actors
- Continued farm subsidies and dumping
- Growing concentration of corporate power
- Competition for FDI and investment promotion

Local organisations take many forms

- Elected local governments, village assemblies
- Service providers, schools, health centres
- Resource management groups (e.g. forest users)
- Producer organisations, farmer unions, co-ops
- Groups based on kin, clan, faith, status (migrants)
- Credit and savings group, and many more....

Local government – what roles to play?

- Partnership with local organisations
- Design of institutions and procedures which accessible to poor groups
- Especially important with decentralisation underway
- But how to make local government more responsive to needs of poor majority?