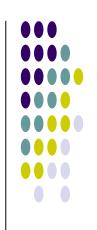
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NATURE & CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURE IN SIDS



1

NATURE & CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURE IN SIDS



- Large proportion of population engaged in agriculture, with high multiplier effect
- Major economic activity in rural areas, making rural development synonymous to rural development development
- Generally, low levels of productivity hence relatively small contribution to GDP despite large labour force

EMERGING CHALLENGES



Low productivity, vulnerability to

OPPORTUNITIES



- Prevailing high food prices should provide stimulus for production.
- Agriculture provides the best option for recovery in the current recession because of its quick response to stimulus.
- Investment in agriculture provides the best option for social stabilization because of the multiplier effect, and its critical link to rural development.
- Development of agriculture arrests and reverses rural-urban migration and hence urban decay.





- The predominance of small farmers with limited access to education and technology necessitates strong support from the State in terms of extension services and research.
- Sustainable agriculture in SIDS is not possible without appropriate crop insurance, as one disaster can wipe out the entire sector particularly given mono-cropping in many countries.
- Research and extension must focus on adaptation, in terms of cropping systems etc.

POLICY OPTIONS







Laws must be reviewed and enacted where necessary or deliberate attempts made to increase land tenure and release economic potential of land assets held by the myriad of small farmers