

## Poverty Determinants in the Rainfed Traditional Farms in Western Sudan: Rural Kordofan State

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty in Sudan is widespread and pervasive, particularly in rural areas owing to the relatively low incomes, inequality in income distribution and in face of continuous rise in the prices of goods and services. In 2002 about 20 million people were living below the poverty line of less than US\$1 a day (IFAD,2007). This Study was conducted in the traditional rainfed farming system, covering rural Kordofan Sate in western Sudan. The study relied on primary data sets collected during agricultural season 2005/2006.

### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To establish poverty lines, indicators and profiles in the rural household focusing on the traditional farms.
2. To identify the main causes of poverty in traditional farms.



Figure 1. Children try a new hand pump installed by UNICEF (UNICEF Sudan/2006)

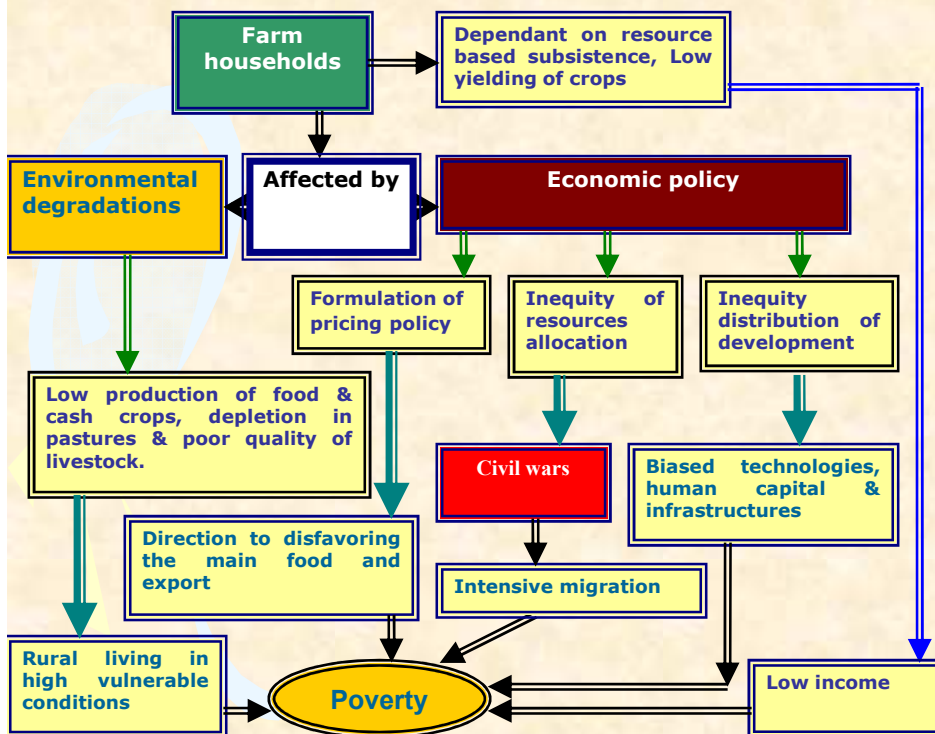


Figure 2. Variables Affecting Poverty in Rural Sudan



Figure 3. Sand dunes surrounded villages



Figure 4. Overgrazing by sheep

### 3. METHODOLOGY

$$P^a = \frac{1}{n} \sum \left[ \frac{z-y}{z} \right]^x \quad (1)$$

$$Z_i = \alpha_j + \beta_i W_{hij} + \epsilon_{hi} \quad (2)$$

### 4. RESULTS

The incidence of poverty was higher among the rural households. However the southern parts of the traditional farms had more vulnerable than the northern parts. A household depending on farm income alone accounts for a great part of the probability of being poor. The illiterate household-headed are more vulnerable to poverty than the educated ones, and similarly, the female-headed households are poorer than the man-headed households. High incidence of poverty was also linked to poor households not having their own livestock. The risk of poverty was on average higher in households with a large number of individuals and of being households suffering from the ill health. The risk of poverty was on average lower in households with male and young head of the households. The household of being with extra occupation and of being more working family members in the farms are reduce the likelihood of being in a higher poverty. The poor households suffer from lack access to safe drinking water, poor health with wide spread of diseases.

**5. CONCLUSIONS:** The poverty existing in the traditional farms were due to unavailable of other off-farm opportunities, poor housing condition, deficits in health care, lack of own livestock, civil war and environmental instability, low yielding farm practices and shortage in modern agricultural inputs and information.

**6. REFERENCES:** 1. IFAD (2007). Enabling the rural poor to overcome poverty in Sudan. Rome, Italy. [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)