

COMBATING POVERTY

(Sect. I, chap. 2)

PROGRAMME AREA

Enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods

Basis for action

1. Poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. No uniform solution can be found for global application. Rather, country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment are crucial for a solution to this problem. The eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution and human resources development remain major challenges everywhere. The struggle against poverty is the shared responsibility of all countries.

2. While managing resources sustainably, an environmental policy that focuses mainly on the conservation and protection of resources must take due account of those who depend on the resources for their livelihoods. Otherwise it could have an adverse impact both on poverty and chances for long-term success in resource and environmental conservation. Equally, a development policy that focuses mainly on increasing the production of goods without addressing the sustainability of the resources on which production is based will sooner or later run into declining productivity, which could also have an adverse impact on poverty. A specific anti-poverty strategy is therefore one of the basic conditions for ensuring sustainable development. An effective strategy for tackling problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should begin by focusing on resources, production and people, and should cover demographic issues, enhanced health care and education, the rights of women, the role of youth and of indigenous people and local communities and a democratic participation process in association with improved governance.

3. Integral to such action is, together with international support, the promotion of economic growth in developing countries which is both sustained and sustainable and direct action in eradicating poverty by strengthening employment and income-generating programmes.

Objectives

4. The long-term objective of enabling all people to achieve sustainable livelihoods should provide an integrating factor which allows policies to address issues of development, sustainable resource management, and poverty eradication simultaneously. The objectives of this programme area are:

/...