

# CONCLUSIONS & OUTLOOK

**21 - 22 November 2002**    **8th IWG.AGRI SEMINAR**  
**“PARIS”**



# Session 1

- **Policy is about WHO GET'S WHAT ?**
- **Implication of this is:**
  - Total Income picture needed
  - Wealth measures needed
  - Comprehensive approach needed , encompassing economic, social and environmental dimension
- **Wider view of agriculture**

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## Session 2

- **Diversity of rurality and change over time**
- **Co-ordination between different departments necessary**
- **Different approaches already exist in IO s and in countries**
- **Agricultural statistics are required to study status of natural resources, environment and poverty related issues**
- **Appropriate definition and unit of observation needed**
- **Convergence desirable**

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## Session 3:

- Sustainability concepts pose considerable problems for developing appropriate indicators
- The three dimensions of SD (eco - social - env) need a balanced approach
- Underlying data is too often of poor quality
- Lacking precision in formulation of problem impacts on degree of adequacy of data and its selection

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## Session 4:

- **Agriculture is the principal component of rural sustainability**
- **Labour input measurement constraints**
- **Significant differences in measurement across countries**
- **We simply do not know with precision what we measure !**

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## Session 5:

- Improvements in productivity measurement have been made for 17 OECD countries and at Eurostat
- Farm versus household needs to be investigated and harmonised
- Macro data needs to be complemented by micro data or vice versa
- Definitions of (farm) household(s) is critical issue
- Environmental EAA to be developed

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## Session 6:

- **Complex issues such as biodiversity, farming practices, and rural development need further indicator development**
- **Priorities for indicator development need to be formulated**
- **Geographic level of AEI is crucial**
- **Again, quality of basic data determines result**
- **Interpretability of highly aggregated indicators ?**

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## Where to go from here ?

- **Many methodological issues identified requiring further action, concertation and co-ordination**
- **IWG.AGRI should play facilitating role in setting up “networks”**
  - thematic approach with country agencies (task forces)
  - variable geometry, feedback
- **Possible themes: Rural Statistics, Agr. Household Unit, Env. EAA**

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