



CROSS-SCALE INTERACTIONS

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of this discussion is to start exploring cross-scale interactions that influence your system and its trajectory of development. In the globalized and hyper-connected world that we live in today, all prospects for local development are affected by change processes that originate from outside of the system. To be able to design strategies for change that has a reasonable chance of being effective, it is important to map out what we know about cross-scale interactions and external drivers for change. See also related activity sheet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are important scale levels above and below your focal scale, that influence your system? For an agricultural system, this could for example be the regional level, where policies are made that subsidy certain types of agricultural production. Or, it could be the global scale, where commodity markets for example may influence local prices for cereal crops. But the household level might also be important, where decisions are made about which farming practices should be used.
- Are there known global or regional drivers of change that currently have a strong influence on the trajectory of development of your system (e.g. climate trends, or financial investments in a specific sector, or changing dietary preferences)?

- How do these drivers affect the focal system? Do they produce sudden shocks or lead to gradual change?
- How do these drivers, stressors and shocks affect different groups of people in the system?
- How does actions within the system aggregate up, and produce an effect beyond its border? For instance, through consumption patterns or fossil fuel use.