

## **Livelihood strategies**

Livelihood strategies are the diverse actions oriented towards meeting desirable needs, involving manipulations of livelihood resources and constructing regulatory mechanisms at different levels of society (Dharmawan and Manig, 2000).

Scoones (1998) has identified three broad clusters of livelihood strategies, namely agricultural intensification livelihood diversification, and migration. Under the first strategy, agricultural intensification communities gain most of their livelihood from farming either through intensification (more output per unit area through capital investment or increase in labor inputs) or through intensification (bringing more area under cultivation).

Second livelihood strategy is livelihood diversification. livelihood diversification is defined as “the process by which households construct a diverse portfolio of activities and social support capabilities for survival and in order to improve their standard of living”. Studies reveal that in rural areas of low-income countries, farming alone is not sufficient to eke out a living (Barrett, Reardon, and Webb, 2001; Adi, 2007; Babulo et al., 2008)

The third livelihood strategy is migration, which may be voluntary or involuntary. Furthermore, according to Ellis (1998), migration may be seasonal (according to agricultural season), circular (according to cyclical labor demands in non-farm labor markets), permanent (usually rural to urban), and international. A household may pursue these three strategies singly or in combination together or in sequence.