

MAKING MARKETS WORK FOR THE POOR (MMW4P)
A joint ADB-DFID Workshop on MMW4P and Country Initiatives
Manila, ADB Headquarters
15-16 February 2005

Concept Note

Making Markets Work for the Poor (MMW4P) is an approach that aims to accelerate pro-poor growth by improving outcomes that matter to the poor in their roles as entrepreneurs, employees or consumers of markets. MMW4P focuses on changing the structure and characteristics of markets to increase participation by the poor on terms that are of benefit to them. It addresses the behaviour of the private sector and therefore reinforces the strengths of market systems, rather than undermining these systems. In this way, MMW4P is based on recent thinking about how to use market systems to meet the needs of the poor and how to support the private sector through market mechanisms that bring about sustainable change.

Background

Over the past few years, an abundant economic literature has deepened our understanding of the links between economic growth, poverty reduction and markets. The effective functioning of markets is recognised as critical to achieving growth with poverty reduction. Policy and institutional reforms are necessary to address market imperfections that tend to be detrimental to poor people's economic and social opportunities.

The concept of 'making markets work for the poor' or MMW4P (later expanded to "making services work for the poor", and "making trade work for the poor") has also emerged as an operational tool for designing pro-poor development projects. A number of multilateral and bilateral aid agencies (DFID, ADB and SIDA, in particular) have developed MMW4P conceptual frameworks and integrated them into their development assistance agenda at the country level.

Workshop Objectives

The aim of the workshop is to take stock of the MMW4P concept and the experience with it in initiatives currently under way in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (supported by DFID and ADB); to inform and facilitate exchange; and to identify areas for future work and potential collaboration.

Specifically:

- To facilitate the exchange of experiences in country initiatives aimed at operationalising the concept of Making Markets Work for the Poor
- To provide participants with exposure to state-of-the-art MMW4P knowledge, practices and methodologies
- To better document the MMW4P concept and experiences of initiatives to inform development agencies and practitioners
- To enhance current and future country initiatives supported by DFID, ADB and other development partners working with the MMW4P concept and approaches
- To develop an agenda for future work and collaboration in MMW4P

Date & Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 February (Tuesday) to 16 February (Wednesday) 2005; evening reception on 14 February 2005 hosted by ADB • Auditorium Zones A and B, ADB Headquarters, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Participating Countries and Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vietnam (ADB+DFID) – Making Markets Work • Mekong Initiative (ADB) • Bangladesh (DFID) – Katalyst; Financial Sector Deepening • South Africa (DFID) – ComMark Trust; FinmarkTrust • Nigeria (DFID) – Promoting Pro-Poor Opportunities through Commodity and Service Markets (PropCom) <p>Plus other ADB and DFID country office representation</p>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Initiative Teams • ADB Staff / Consultants and resource persons • DFID Staff / Consultants • CIDA, IFC, GTZ, ILO, SIDA, UNDP, USAID <p>Total of ca. 50 participants by invitation.</p>
Workshop Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five thematic papers commissioned by ADB and DFID for the conference on (i) concepts and approaches to Making markets work better for the poor (DFID), (ii) financial markets (DFID), (iii) agricultural markets (DFID) (iv) labour markets (ADB), (v) public–private partnerships (ADB) • Supplementary materials on MMW4P provided by the conference organisers and participants <p>Presentations (Powerpoint) on country experiences with MMW initiatives by the country teams</p>
Session Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background paper presentations 20 minutes (papers) • Country presentations 10 minutes (Powerpoint or slide presentations)