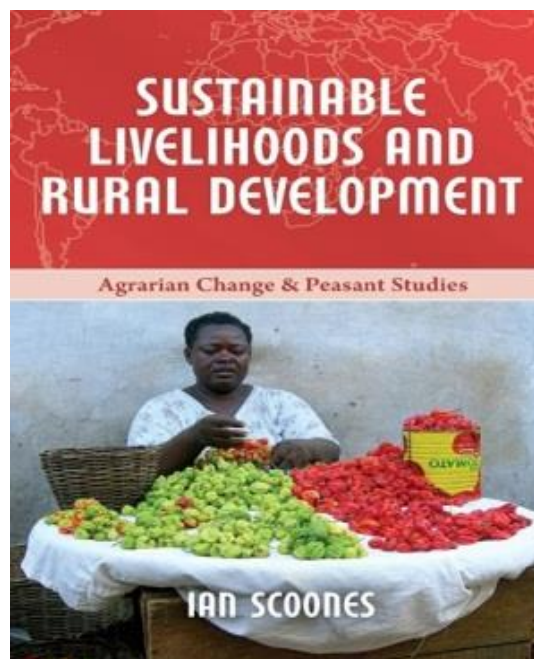


## **SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Title : Sustainable Livelihoods and Rural Development:  
Agrarian Change & Peasant Studies  
Author : Ian Scoones  
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The book entitled '**Sustainable Livelihoods and Rural Development: Agrarian Change & Peasant Studies**' was written by a British researcher who is active in conducting research and writing about the relationship between science, policy and the politics of sustainability as well as long-term research on livelihoods, land and agriculture. The author, Ian Scoones (co-director of the ESRC STEPS Center at Sussex and Principal Investigator of the ERC Advanced Grant Project, PASTRES), thoroughly explains how the conception of sustainable livelihoods

responds to rural development problems while still positioning political-economic understanding. The relationship between livelihoods and sustainability is examined, how a livelihood can be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Scoones places this livelihood analysis within the economic-political corridor of new livelihoods and broader environmental and agrarian changes. Thus, this can have implications for thought (science) and action (policy).

This book is organized into an introduction section and nine content sections (chapters). This book discusses four important points in the study of poverty, livelihoods and rural development within the framework of sustainable development, namely: (1) contributions to the development of science, Scoones comprehensively describes the question of conceptualizing livelihoods within the framework of rural development by proposing and expanding livelihood approaches through analysis Bernstein's political economy; (2) on policy, how Scoones interprets access to and control over institutions, organizations, and policy processes in influencing livelihood outcomes by emphasizing and reemphasizing the importance of politics in influencing livelihood strategies and outcomes; (3) related to the politics of sustainability, how to restore and construct politics in a new concept of livelihood; and (4) by remaining in the corridor of sustainable livelihoods, Scoones carries the concept of rural development while taking into account and supporting sustainable development goals, both socio-economically through the concept of "livelihood, poverty and prosperity", and ecological (environmental) sustainability by promoting the concept of "livelihoods, environment and sustainability".

### **Key Points And Review**

This book is interesting because it is written very well, concisely, comprehensively, and thoroughly in its literature references. This book provides an opportunity to support the means for rural development and a new model of sustainable development using a “livelihood” perspective. *Sustainable Livelihoods and Rural Development* presents how sustainable livelihoods play an important role in rural development. Scoones reconstructs a perspective on livelihoods with a broader lens and is strengthened by the political economy of agrarian change by Henry Bernstein. This book is structured by providing global case studies related to political-economic questions in order to reconstruct (expand) the perspective of sustainable livelihoods through an analytical framework.

This book contains several important points in each section, as the focus of Scoones' studies. In part (chapter) I, Scoones brings up a livelihood perspective historically, its urgency for various discussions on rural development since several decades ago. This section also serves as an introduction (introduction) to present discussions that place the study of agrarian change more broadly and have implications for research trends, practices and policies. Part (chapter) II describes how in the livelihood analysis to interpret the problems of "poverty" and "welfare" by reflecting that poverty is concentrated and dominated in rural areas. Thus, through this livelihood analysis will measure socially and economically livelihood outcome indicators. It can be concluded that parts I and II describe the concept of livelihood which is complex, multidimensional, diverse in space and time, and socially differentiated.

In part III, the framework for answering the problems in parts I and II is described, thus providing a framework for sustainable livelihoods. This framework is used as a simple way of thinking in understanding possible interactions between things. Then, part IV is a form of response to the dimensions that were neglected in the analysis and framework, namely the contribution of institutions, organizations and policies in bridging access to livelihood resources and as opportunities and/or challenges in achieving different livelihood strategies. Likewise with part V, which seeks to present rural development while remaining within the framework of environmental sustainability. Scoones links livelihoods and access to resources so as not to reduce/depreciate existing resources.

In part VI, Scoones positions the concept of political economy in livelihoods. This political-economic concept is intended to show that access to livelihoods cannot be separated from power relations structurally, influence and control of the state's political economy and other powerful actors, and patterns of production, accumulation and reproduction in society. In order to answer these challenges and reconstruct the livelihood analysis framework (in section III), in section VII Scoones elaborates Henry Bernstein's theory of agrarian-political economy and obtains an expanded framework of livelihood analysis. Also in this section, it is interesting that this book presents a global case study of political-economic analysis of livelihoods in rural areas by applying a model of expanding the framework of sustainable livelihoods.

Then, section VIII presents methodological concepts for research in answering agrarian political-economic questions and expanding the framework of sustainable livelihoods. Scoones provides the possibility of a choice of methods, both qualitative, quantitative and mixed. Finally, in section IX (closing), Scoones, as in section III, reintroduces the political aspect in the analysis of

rural livelihoods. Thus, Scoones discusses how the implications of this political approach are related to rural livelihoods and development in the context of organizing and action (praxis).

### **Conclusion**

The book is 168 pages thick with content full of knowledge (theoretical and practical) through various interrelated concepts in building a better livelihood framework. This book is very worth reading. This reminds that it can be understood and can be used by institutions or individuals who want and are currently carrying out development work in poverty alleviation, as well as in development studies and multidimensional rural development. This book can be read, both theoretically and practically, to encourage rural development planners and local institutions to reflect again on policies that are pro-poor, pay attention to local parameters, and voice the aspirations of the community and local institutions at a more macro level.

Finally, this book gives us an understanding of the study of rural development, especially poverty alleviation through the subject's livelihood. Moreover, in elaborating Henry Bernstein's political-economy approach which can be applied from the smallest unit, such as the household to a wider spectrum, to the global realm so that it can enrich and strengthen the analysis of sustainable livelihoods at various loci. However, this book also needs to add related issues related to connectivity and discussion with the global development agenda SGDs, and needs case studies on sustainable livelihoods globally as reference material and strengthens the political economy perspective that has been described in the case study section VII.

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