

# Coping with Climate Change: The Role of Property Rights and Collective Action

Ruth Meinzen-Dick

Coordinator, CGIAR Systemwide Program on  
Collective Action and Property Rights

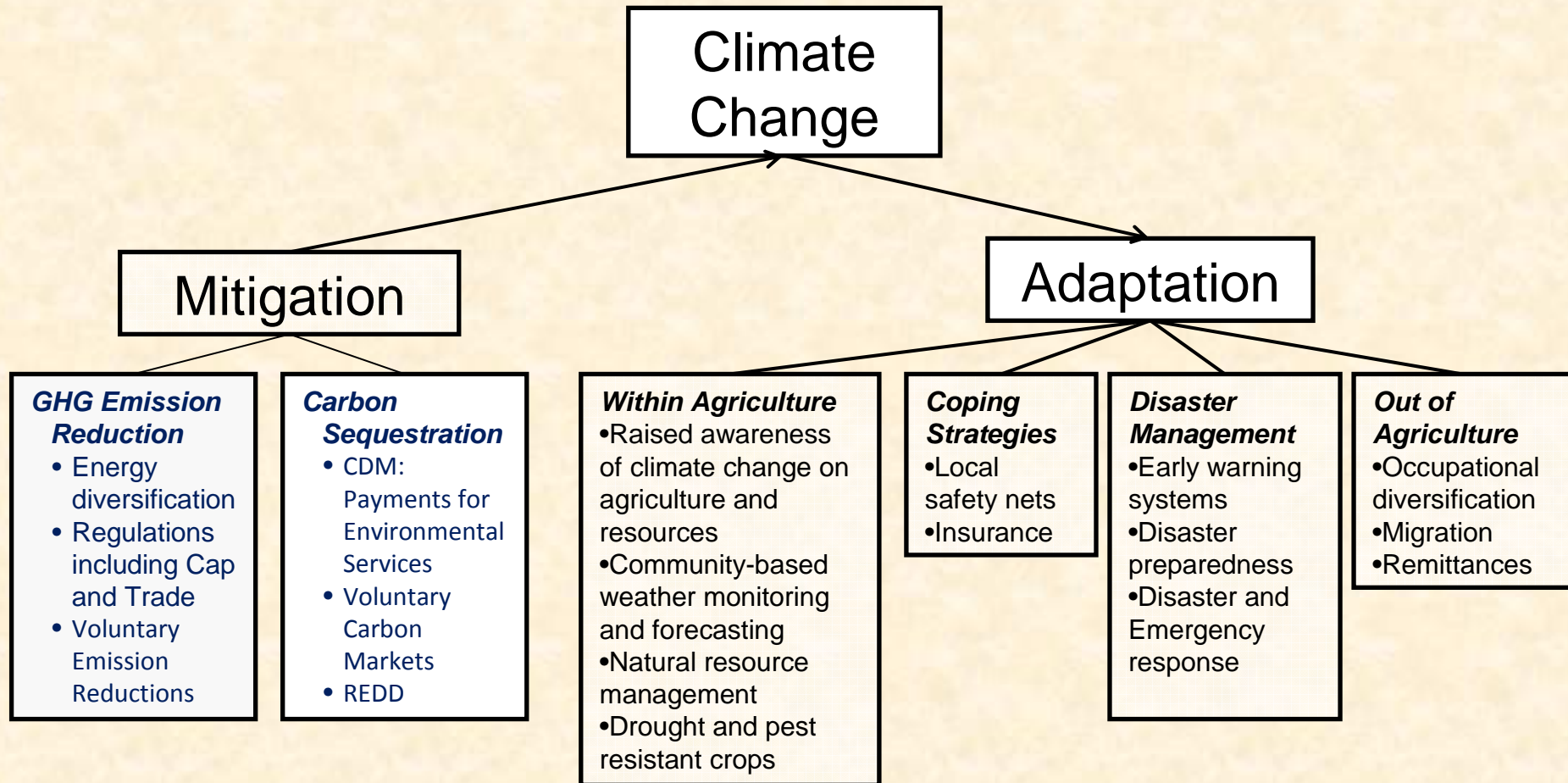
Senior Research Fellow  
International Food Policy Research Institute



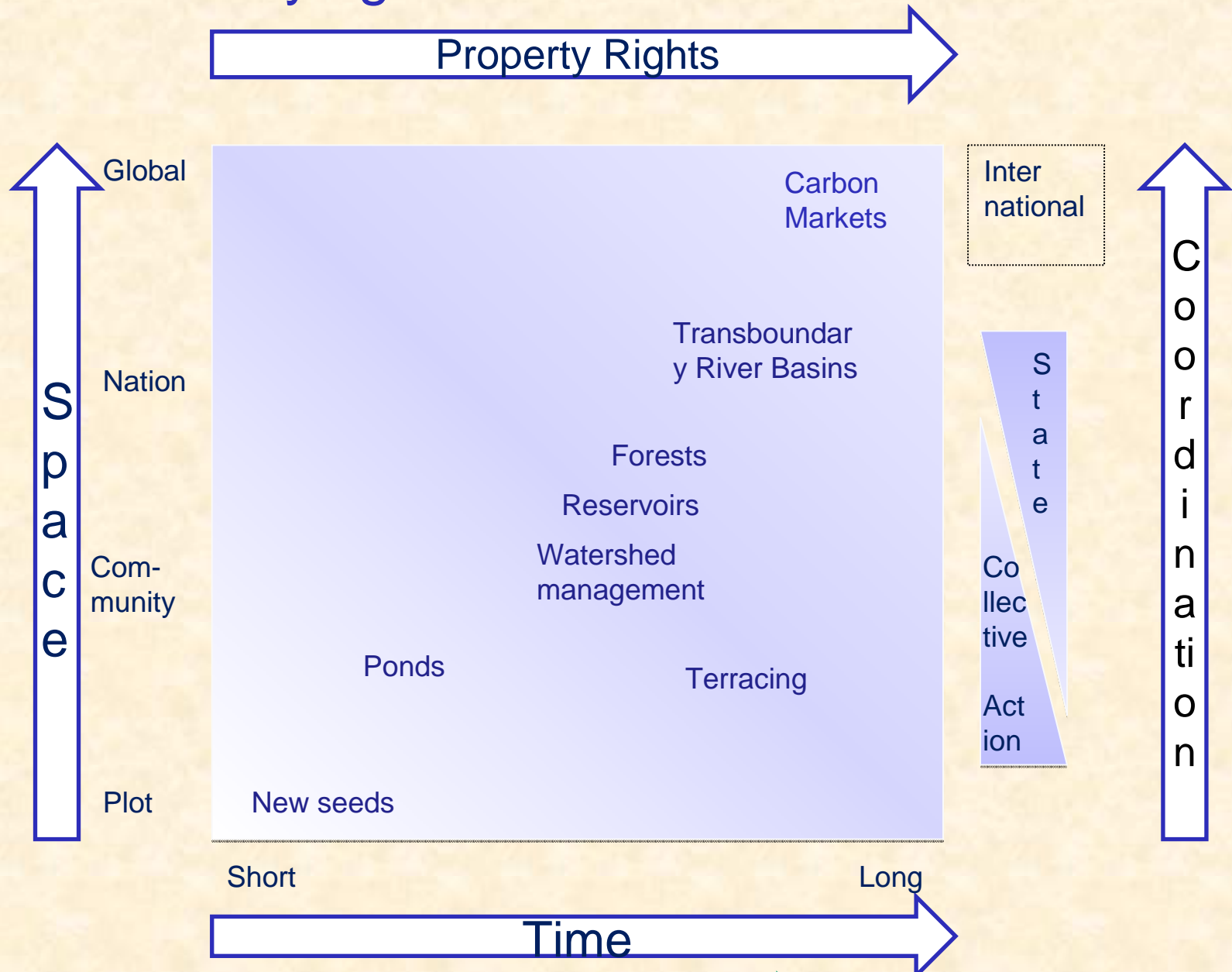
Presentation at Workshop on  
Land Governance and Emerging  
Development Agendas: Legal Empowerment,  
Climate Change and Food Security  
UNDP Oslo Governance Centre,  
24-25 November 2008



# Climate change responses



# Identifying the Role of Institutions



# Institutional Dimensions of Mitigation

## ***Carbon Sequestration***

- CDM: Payments for Environmental Services—PR, scale often prohibit smallholders from participating, CA can help overcome these barriers
- Voluntary Carbon Markets—may be more geared to smallholders because of goodwill, willing to work with groups rather than individuals?
- REDD—will depend on how PR are defined for participation
- Biofuels—adding pressure on those with insecure tenure

# Adaptation within Agriculture

## ***Natural resource management***

- Water storage: PR for water and land, coordination to build and manage systems
- Tree planting: PR needed, coordination for forests that go beyond individual holding
- Watershed management: PR, CA

## ***Rights to ecosystem services***

- Can farmers benefit from improving water flows, carbon sequestration?
- PR to water, carbon, recognition, compensation measures—farmers' livelihoods and environmental benefits

# Institutional Diversity

- Institutional diversity increases resilience
  - Range of local organizational forms for CA
  - Range of property rights regimes
- Local institutions are critical, but no specific community level mandates
  - Allow local organizations to select strategy compatible with their needs and context
- Government policies, international mandates more effective if they established ecological and human rights standards, then support variety of institutional strategies

# Institutional Connections

- Harmonization between spheres and sectors
  - Large overarching goals at the highest level
  - More detailed, task oriented programs at the national level
  - Complex programs at community levels tailored to diverse needs
  - Connect community and higher level organizations

# Implications for UNDP

- **Look for institutional implications**
  - When will property rights, coordination be important?
  - Will the programs, mechanisms (e.g. REDD) include or exclude poor, smallholders, women
- **Property rights ≠ Individual freehold title**
  - **Recognize** collective, customary rights, rights to common property
  - Local land registration processes, etc.
- **Insist on Free, Prior, Informed Consent**
  - Increase negotiating power of local groups

# For More Information

- [www.capri.cgiar.org](http://www.capri.cgiar.org)
- [www.rightsandclimate.org](http://www.rightsandclimate.org)