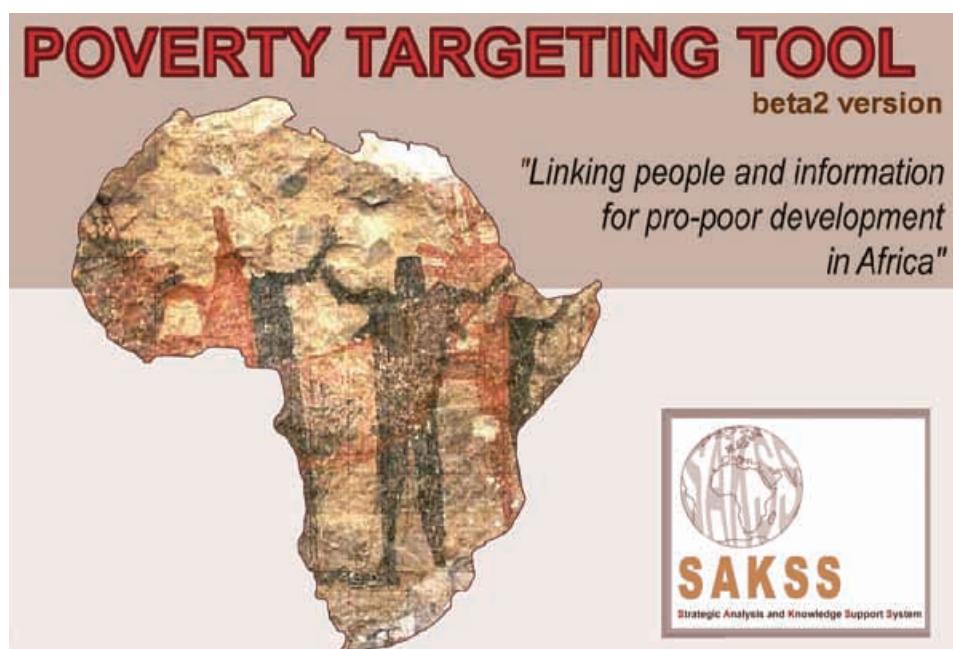# Note 8

The SAKSS poverty targeting tool

Note 8. The SAKSS poverty targeting tool

As African governments and their partners begin identifying areas for agricultural and rural investment and policy intervention, it is crucial that the links between investments, agricultural growth, and poverty reduction are clearly understood. In response, several development partners are working together to establish a Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS). The purpose of SAKSS is to compile, analyze, and disseminate data, information, and tools in order to help inform the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of rural development strategies, with the ultimate aim of making them more effective. The intended users of SAKSS include not only African governments and donors but also local and international research institutes and universities, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. SAKSS is organized as networks of research and implementation partners linked to the many sources of information, research, and analysis throughout the continent. The vision is for SAKSS to become institutionalized in national and regional nodes within relevant national ministries, planning units, and regional organizations. With the leadership of IFPRI, and in cooperation with NEPAD and the continent's many regional economic organizations, SAKSS regional nodes and networks are now being launched in East, Southern, and West Africa, led by four CGIAR partner centres. At the national level, country SAKSS are currently being piloted in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Ghana (source: http://www.ifpri.org/themes/sakss/sakss.htm).

One tool that is being developed is a poverty targeting tool. This is CD-based, and makes use of the considerable work on poverty mapping carried out in Africa and assembles these data into an easy-to-use mapping and data extraction tool. The poverty CD uses the same basic mapping tool, developed at ILRI, that is in the food-feed impact assessment framework tool (Note 7). The screen below shows 1999 data from Uganda, showing percentage of the population living below the national poverty line. It is envisaged that the poverty targeting tool will be followed by several others, looking at different aspects such as environmental issues and trade and investment data.