



“Embracing Development” - *Orang Asli* Nascent Entrepreneurs in Malaysia

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Presentation Format

- Introduction
- Orang Asli of Malaysia
- Conceptual Framework - **Embracing Development” - *Orang Asli* Nascent Entrepreneurs**
- Traditions and Transitions: An Analysis of Orang Kuala Involvement in Commercial Endeavors
- Conclusion

Objectives

- ❖ Analyses the factors that spur *Orang Asli* 's transition from agricultural and fishing to entrepreneurial activities.
- ❖ It also analyses the impact of this transition with those who continue to pursue their tradition
- ❖ Highlight the cause and effect of *Orang Asli* “embracing development in commercial activities

Introduction

- Malaysia rapid economic growth
- Social engineering policies
 - New Economic Policy (1971-1990)
 - New Development Policy (1991-2000)
 - National Vision Policy (2001-2010)
- 1Malaysia concept and New Economic Model
- What do we know of the Orang Asli involvement in commerce and industry

Table 1: Population of Orang Asli in Malaysia by Sub-Group, 2003

Category	Sub-Group	Population
Negrito	Kensiu	232
	Kintak	157
	Jahai	1,843
	Lanoh	350
	Mendriq	164
	Batek	1,255
	Sub-total	4,001
Senoi	Semai	43,892
	Temiar	25,725
	Jah Hut	5,104
	Che Wong	664
	Mah Meri	2,986
	Semaq Beri	3,545
	Sub-total	81,826
Aboriginal Malay	Temuan	22,162
	Semelai	6,418
	Jakun	27,448
	Orang Kanaq	83
	Orang Kuala	4,067
	Orang Seletar	1,407
	Sub-total	61,585
Total		147,412

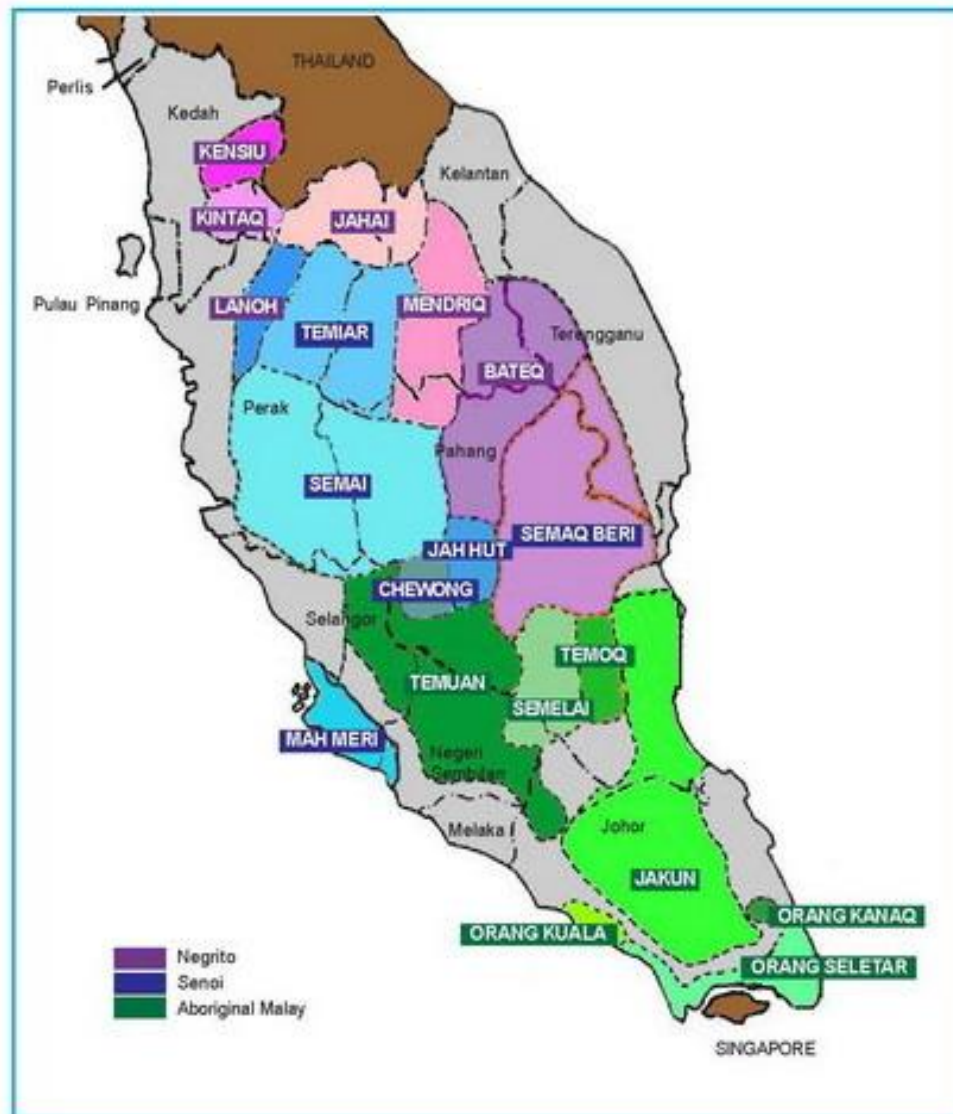
Table 2: Distribution of Orang Asli Villages by Location as at December 2003

State	No. of villages	Urban	Fringe	Interior
Pahang	263	3	167	93
Perak	248	-	139	109
Kedah	1	-	1	-
Selangor	75	6	69	-
Kelantan	136	-	21	115
Terengganu	3	-	3	-
Negeri Sembilan	67	2	63	2
Melaka	14	-	14	-
Johor	62	1	57	4
TOTAL	869	12	534	323

**Table 3: Classification of Orang Asli Villages by Level of Development
as at December 2003**

	No. of villages	Developed	Moderately developed	Backward/ Undeveloped
Pahang	263	9	146	108
Perak	248	-	132	116
Kedah	1	-	1	-
Selangor	75	12	45	18
Kelantan	136	-	21	115
Terengganu	3	-	3	-
Negeri Sembilan	67	7	24	36
Melaka	14	1	8	5
Johor	62	8	45	-
TOTAL	869	46	425	398

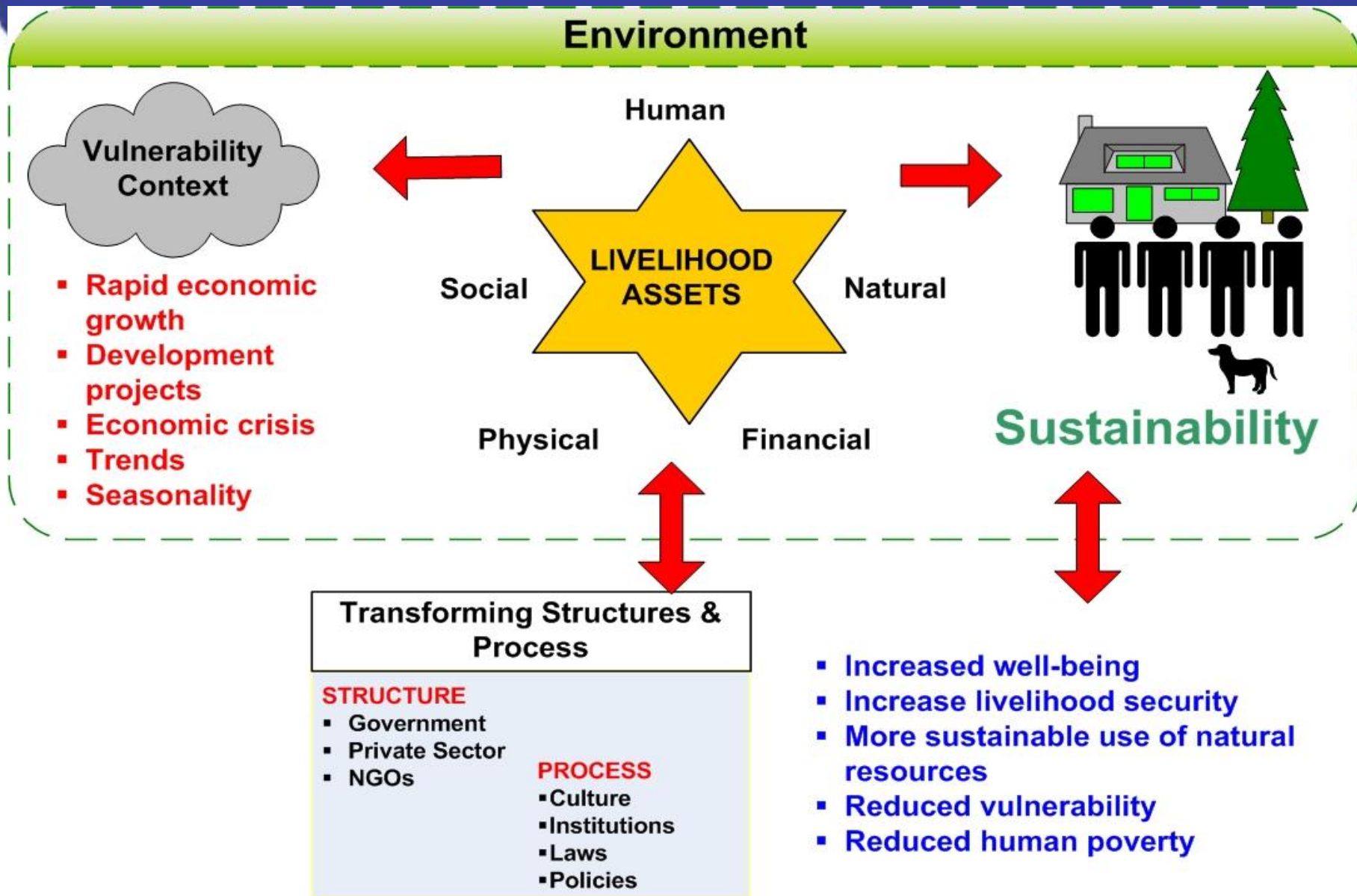
Map 1: DISTRIBUTION OF THE ORANG ASLI SUBGROUPS



Orang Asli - Invisible and Marginalised

- The Orang Asli are invisible
- Bumputera but without the “special privileges” – compared to the Malays who were accorded such privileges under Article 153 of Federal Constitution
- Highest incidence of poverty

Conceptual Model Towards a Sustainable Livelihood



Conceptual Framework

- **Indigenous Entrepreneurship** - Second wave of development
- **Role of entrepreneurial activities**
 - greater control of activities on their traditional lands,
 - an end to dependency through economic self-sufficiency,
 - the preservation and strengthening of traditional values and the application of these in economic development and business activities, and of course
 - improved socioeconomic circumstances for individuals, families, and communities.

Conceptual Framework

- Barriers that indigenous entrepreneurs faced:
 - *Social and individual disadvantages..*
 - *Geographic disadvantages.*
 - *Cultural disadvantages.*
 - *Economic disadvantages.*
 - *Political and structural disadvantages.*

Case Study

- Survey 2007
- Orang Kuala of Rengit and Pontian
- Total of 214 households; 44.4% are involved in commercial activities, and remaining are involved in traditional activities

Orang Kuala Community and Entrepreneurship

- ❖ Originally boat people
- ❖ 1960s live around Rengit and Pontian rivers
- ❖ In 1980s live in RPS



- Main economic activities - fishing
- Vegetables planting for self consumption

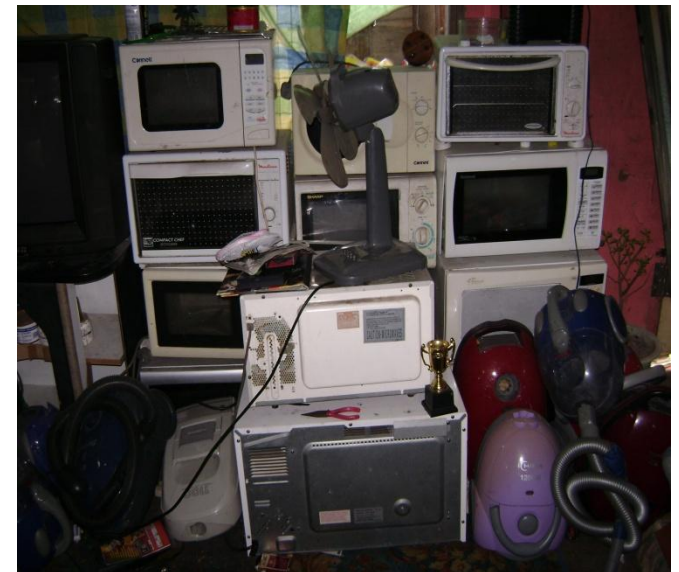
Orang Kuala Community and Entrepreneurship



- In 1995 – started small business in used households items business
- Pionerred by village head and followed by few households
- Sources of used items – disposed used items from Singapore households

Indigenous Business

- ❖ Used-item business
- ❖ Selling of fish products (dried/salted fish)
- ❖ *Kelong* – fixed structure for fishing



- Self made business premises
- Sources of capital – Personal, families and friends
- Selling vs marketing
- Customers: non-locals



Transitions and Traditions



- Shift from fishing to small business
- Acquire new traits
 - Entrepreneurial traits
 - New skills
 - Indebtedness to *Along*
- Retain traditional values
 - social investment

Figure 1. Saving, Asset and Credit of Orang Kuala Entrepreneurs and Non-Entrepreneurs

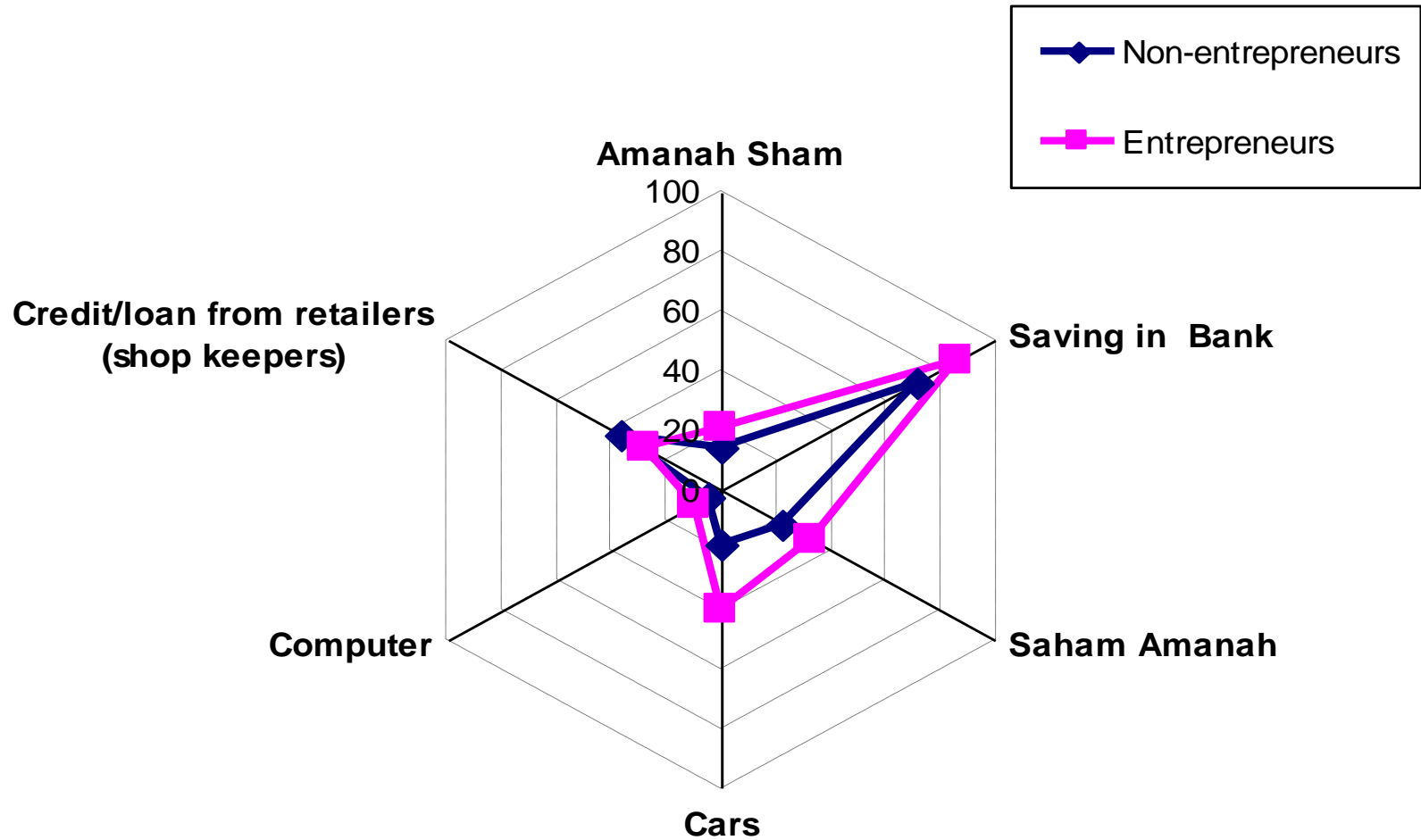
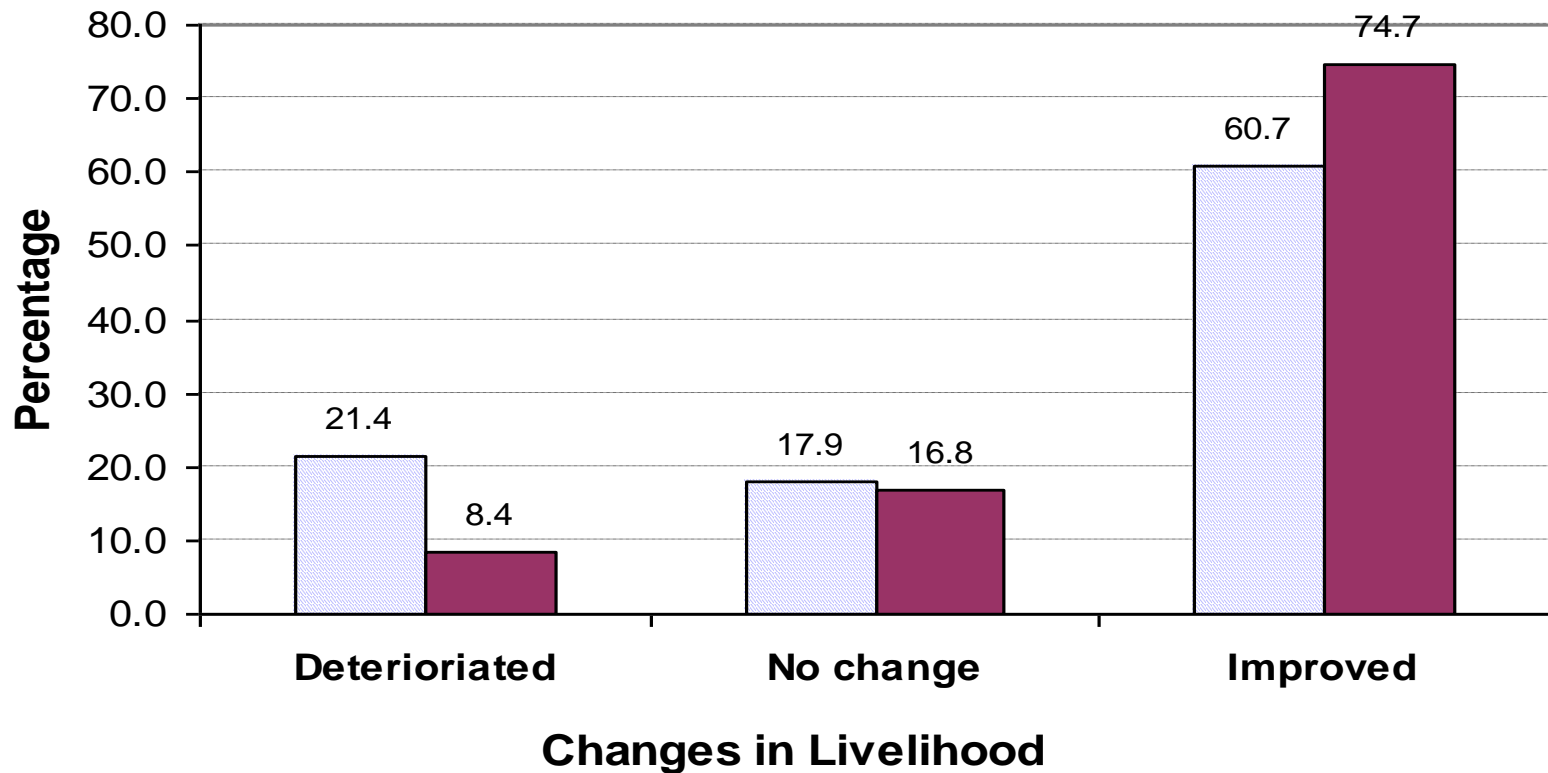


Figure 2. Perceived Changes in Livelihood in the last 10 years



❖ Entrepreneurship

- ❖ Community development
- ❖ Improved livelihood
- ❖ Way out of poverty
- ❖ Break the cycle of poverty
- ❖ Reduced dependency



Sustainability Challenges

- Entrepreneurial Skill
 - Management
 - Pricing
- Education and Training
- Raw materials
- Competition

THANK YOU

