




Exercise One: What is Globalization?

 **Time: 15 minutes**

Objective

This exercise is designed to introduce participants to each other and to the concept of **Globalization**, one of the major themes of the workshop. It is a framing exercise to lay the foundation for the exercises that come later in this workshop.

Procedure

1. Thank group for inviting you and briefly introduce yourself and any other facilitators. Explain that the first exercise is a warm-up to get to know each other and to introduce Globalization, one of the topics central to today's workshop. Say that after that we will go over the agenda and objectives.
- 5 min* 2. In pairs, participants will introduce themselves and describe their understanding of globalization, then come back to the big group.
- 5 min* 3. Ask each participant to introduce their partner and briefly state their partner's notion of globalization. (If there are time constraints, skip step 2 and have everyone introduce themselves and then ask for a few people to share their understanding of globalization).
- 5 min* 4. Facilitator should take 5 minutes to summarize the activity. Thank people for sharing. State that Globalization is a word that has many different meanings. Globalization has implications for culture, economics, trade, etc. State: "Your responses are all testimony to this." There is a great deal of tension about the meaning of globalization and whether it is "good" or "bad." This workshop will provide some concrete examples of the impacts of globalization on rural communities around the world. Keep these definitions in mind because they will be useful throughout the workshop.

Some definitions of Globalization

There are many definitions of globalization. The following definitions summarize how we will be referring to globalization as it impacts the rural communities we work with and as we see it operating with international trade agreements and the **World Trade Organization**. The workshop focuses primarily on the effects of economic globalization.

- The integration of markets, nation-states, and technologies in a way that is enabling individuals, corporations and nation-states to reach around the world farther, faster, deeper and cheaper than ever before.
- The spread of free-market capitalism to virtually every country in the world.
- The changes in societies and the world economy that result from increased international trade and cultural exchange.
- The increase of trade and investing due to the falling of barriers and the interdependence of countries. In specifically economic contexts, the term refers almost exclusively to the effects of trade, particularly "Free Trade."

*Definitions from (T.L. Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, 1999, p. 7-8)
and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalization>*