A review of 16 poverty mapping studies recommends that:

- Every country in the world should map the distribution of its poor
- Governments should maintain the technical effort and identify where responsive, affordable, and effective action is needed
- National legislation should support the distribution of poverty information to all those who want it
- Poverty mapping should be integrated into natural resource management and poverty control at the national and subnational level
- An early stage enhancement is needed to develop skills and techniques for tracing local and global change
- A long-term approach is necessary to support less-developed countries in making regular poverty-monitoring assessments

POVERTY MAPPING: A Tool to Improve Efficiencies of Agricultural Development Activities

Where is the poor?

Almost all sustainable development activities become more effective with better information about the location of the poor. Poverty data are the foundation of poor people’s needs, to improve targeted interventions. This affects the planning and implementation of poverty reduction programs and the effectiveness of poverty alleviation measures. Poverty mapping is the complex process of gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information about the distribution of poverty. It is a key component of efforts to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of the poor.

What are the correlates of poverty?

Success in fighting poverty demands that we know what causes it and what strategies can alleviate it. Many interventions, national and international, in the last years, the funding, to reduce poverty, have been implemented. Poverty is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by a variety of factors. Some of the major factors that contribute to poverty include: lack of education, unemployment, lack of access to healthcare, and lack of access to basic services.

How can poverty mapping contribute to poverty reduction?

Poverty mapping can be used to identify the locations of poverty, which can help to target interventions more effectively. It can also be used to track changes in poverty over time, which can help to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

What can we do to support poverty mapping?

Although poverty mapping has been used effectively in a number of initiatives, additional work is needed in order to make it more effective. This includes improving the tools available for poverty mapping, as well as developing new methods for collecting and analyzing poverty data.