



Escaping Poverty Traps

*Connecting the Chronically Poor
to Economic Growth*



Michael Carter is professor of agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin. He is also director of the BASIS Collaborative Research Support Program that studies rural poverty alleviation strategies in Africa, Asia and Latin American. Author of numerous articles and books, Carter's research focuses on the nature of growth and transformation in low income economies, giving particular attention to how inequality in the distribution of assets shape, and are shaped by, economic growth. While working primarily through the econometric analyses of household and firm level data, Carter has also made theoretical contributions on the economics of asset accumulation, institutional innovation and credit rationing. He carried out the fieldwork for his dissertation on the Peruvian land reform in 1980, and has since had numerous other research projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Carter has been working on South African income distribution dynamics since 1994 when he joined a team analyzing a national living standards survey. His current projects include analysis of poverty dynamics and productive social safety nets, and feature a suite of projects that design, pilot and evaluate index insurance contracts as mechanisms to alleviate chronic poverty and deepen agricultural and rural financial markets.