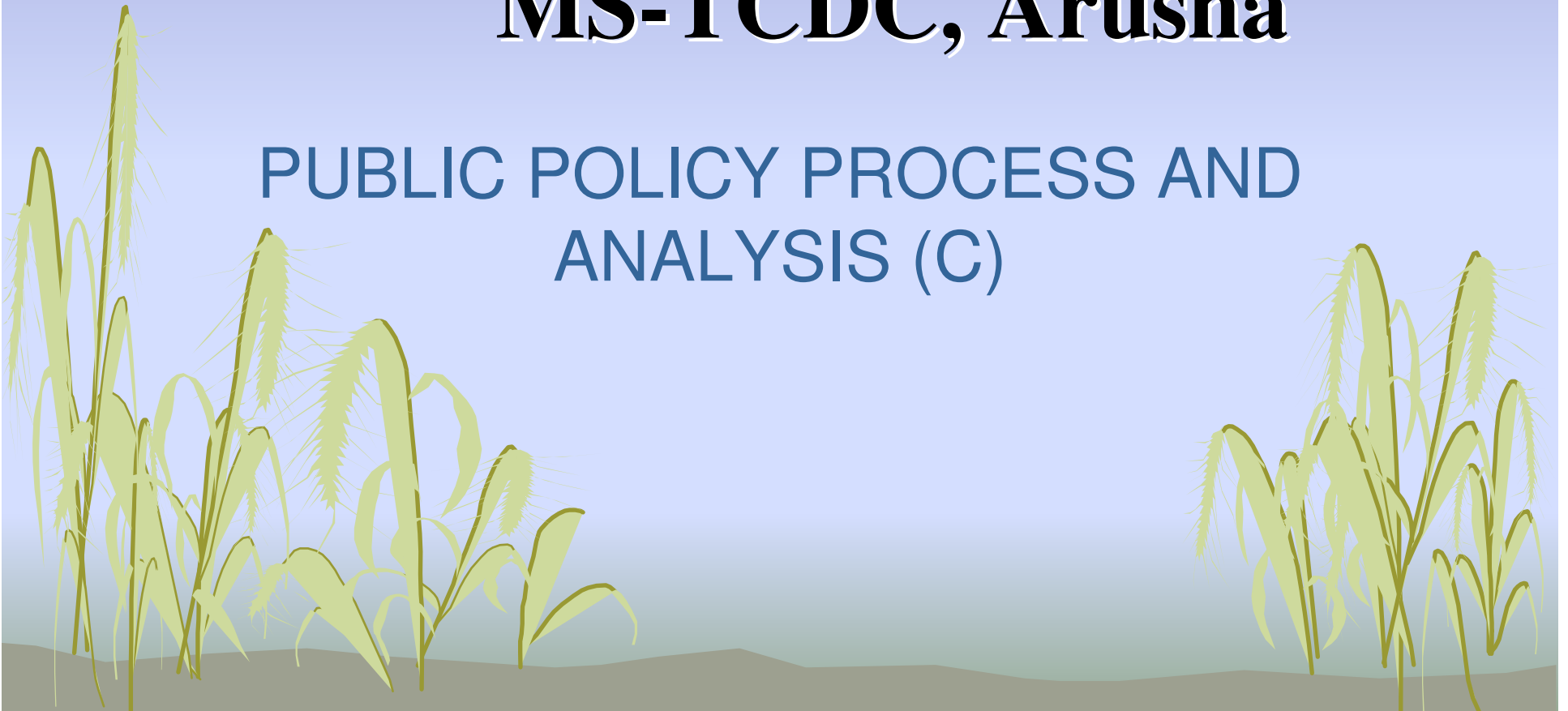# Policy Advocacy Training

MS-TCDC, Arusha

PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS AND ANALYSIS (C)

The Policy Analysis Process

- **Goals of Policy Analysis**

    - Reducing uncertainty and providing information for decision makers in the public arena

    - As systematic evaluation of the technical and economic feasibility and political viability of alternative policies, strategies for implementation, and consequences for policy adoption.
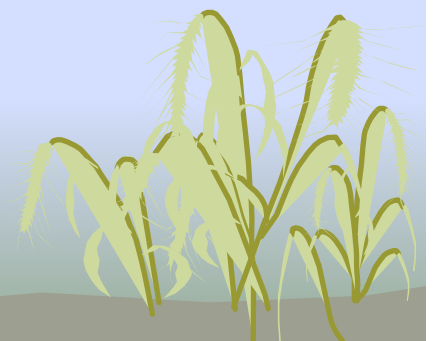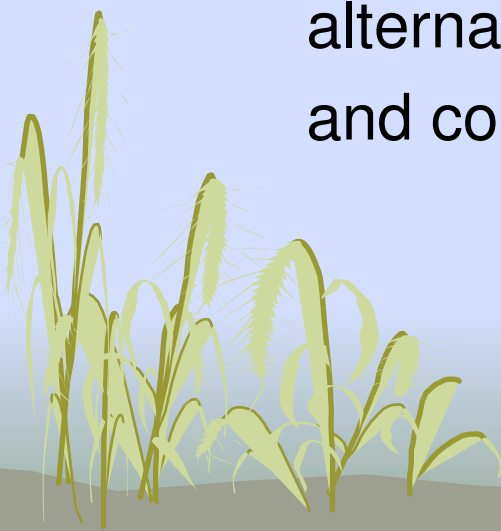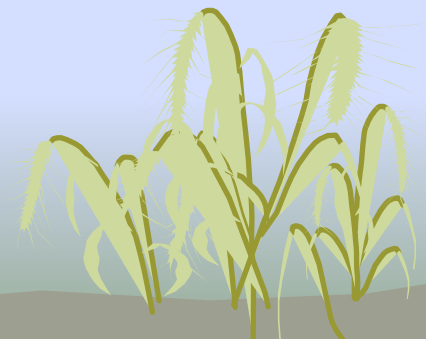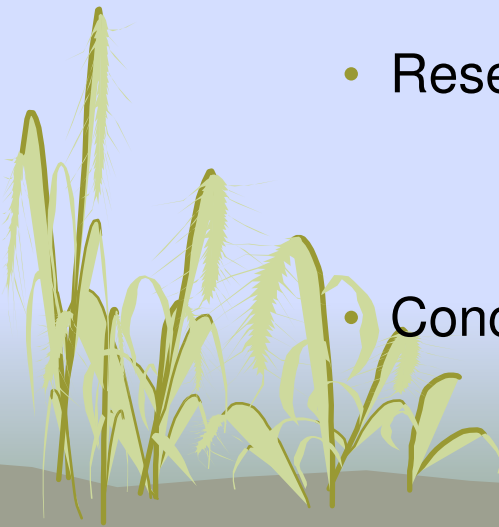
Policy Analysis Process

- approach to problems that is logical, structured, valid, and replicable

- generation of feasible courses of action

- a search for information and evidence of benefits and other consequences of courses of action

- in order to help policy makers choose the most advantageous policy action.
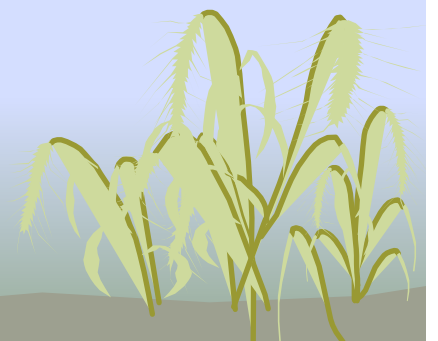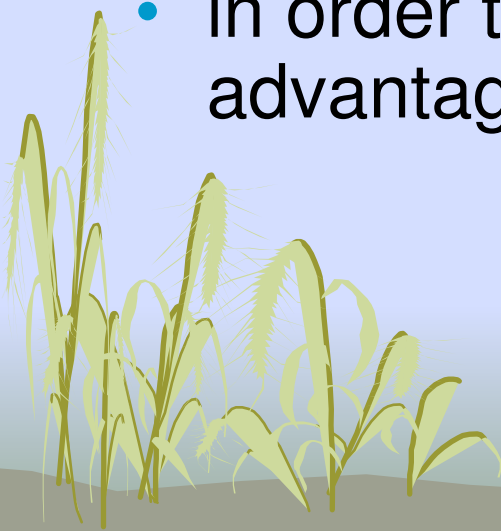
Policy Analysis. . . .

- will involve a
  - Research Plan
    - Background research:
      - legislative history
      - political environment
      - previous policy efforts
      - relevant information
    - Research design:
      - specification of research objectives
      - outline of informational needs
      - specifications of methods to be used
    - Research implementation:
      - data collection
      - data tabulation
      - results presentation
    - Conclusions and recommendations

Policy Analysis Framework

Problem Analysis
- *What appears to be wrong and why?*

Goal Analysis
- *What needs to be achieved?*

Analyzing the Problem

Assessing and Selecting Options

Criteria Governing Choice
- *What values are at issue?*

Options Identification and Assessment
- *What might be done?*
- *What are the anticipated outcomes of possible options?*

Options Selected
- *What is the preferred option/mix of options?*

Supporting and Evaulating the Policy Choice

Communicate Evidence
- *Who needs to be informed?*
- *How can information best be presented?*

Convey Intent
- *What are program managers expected to do?*

Monitor and Evaluate
- *Does the policy still make sense?*
- *Has the option/mix of options worked?*

Policy Analysis Framework

Under this framework, policy analysis involves answering questions related to problem and goal analysis.

| Problem Analysis Questions *What appears to be wrong and why?*	Goal Analysis Questions *What needs to be achieved?*

•What is the problem?
   •How do you know the problem exists?
•Whose problem is it?
   •Who are the stakeholders?
•How serious is it?
   •What are the quantitative dimensions?
•Is the problem likely to improve or worsen?
•What are the underlying causes?
•What priority should be assigned to this problem in comparison to others?
	•What specific goals are desired to address the problem?
	   •Quantify, if possible.
	•What is the relative importance of achieving various goals?
	•Whose interests will be served by meeting or not meeting these goals?
	•How realistic are the goals?
	•Are there any givens or constraints in making the desired change?
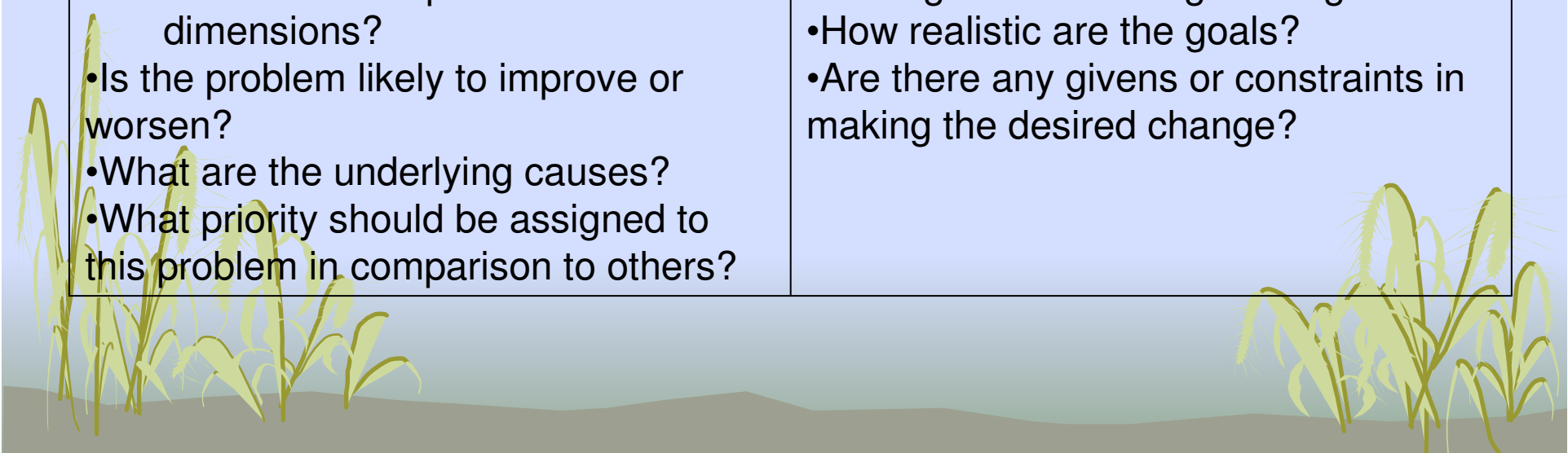
Cost-benefit analysis

- **Identification of the benefits**

- **Identification of the costs**

- **Comparison of the costs and benefits**

- **Conclusion of the analysis**
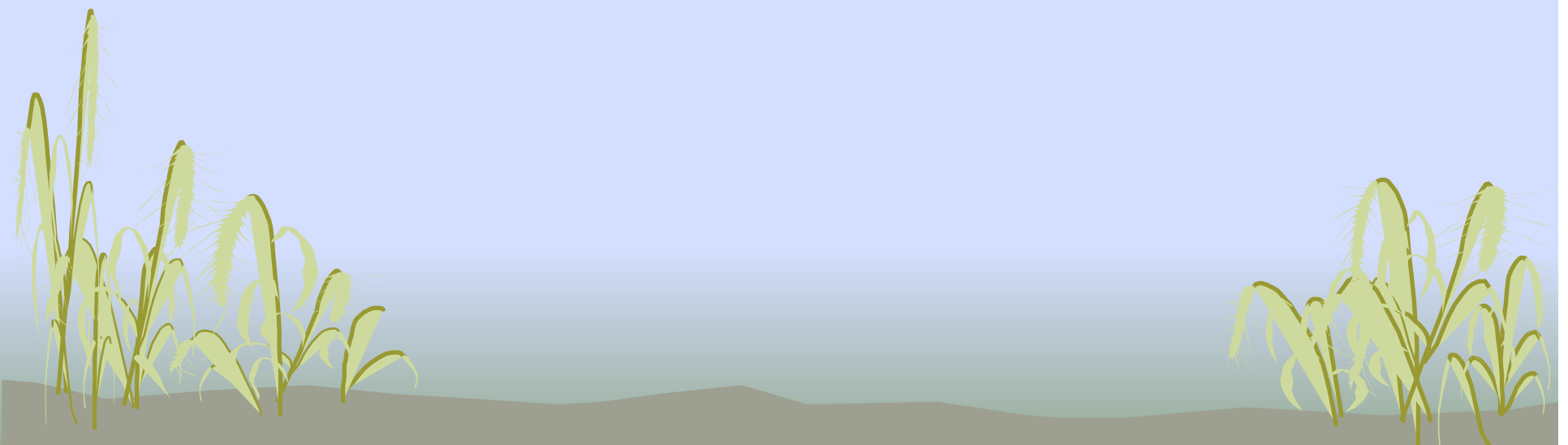
Policy Externalities and Implementation Problems

- Unintended side effects
- Unintended offsetting behaviour
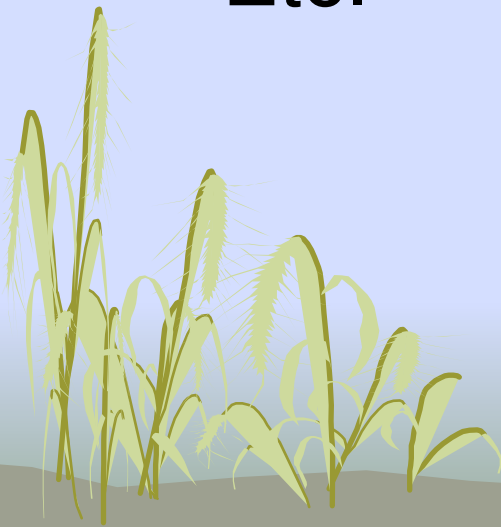- Implementation problems
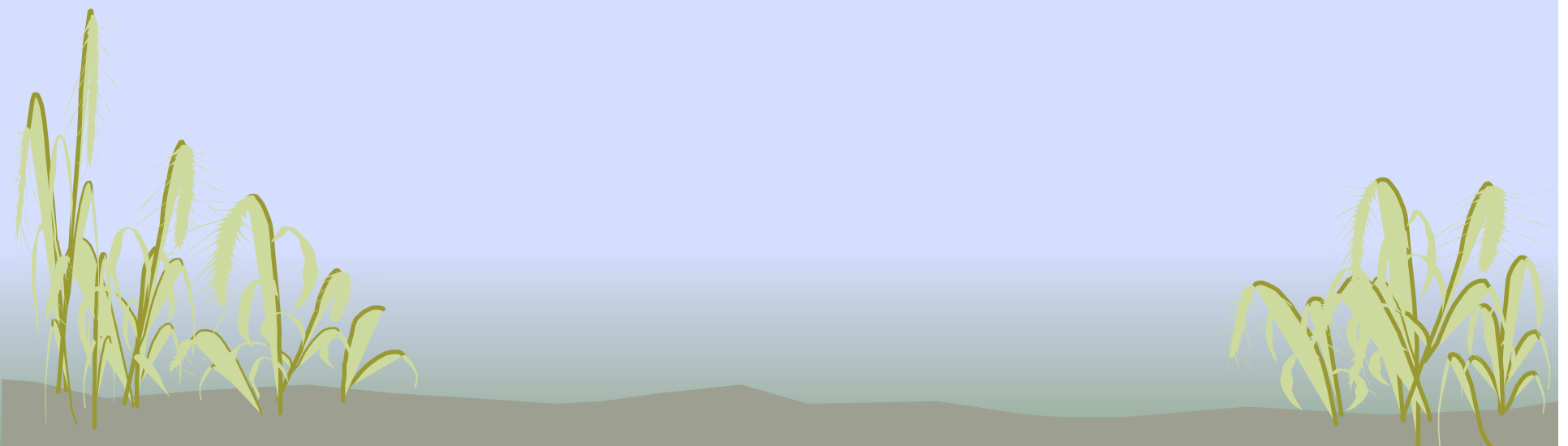
Conclusions

- Regarding proposed policy or program
- Regarding alternative policies and programs

Packaging the information

- Policy briefs
- Policy papers
- Policy reports
- Presentations
- Briefings
- Etc.

Problems in Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

- uncertainty over policy goals
- difficulty in determining causality
- diffuse policy impacts
- difficulty in data acquisition
- official resistance
- limited time perspective
- evaluation lacks impact