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Le Corum, Montpellier
France

Territorial approaches to rural transformation for food security

Parallel Session, Tuesday 23 January, 2018

Organized by:

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As highlighted in the report of the United Nations on the World Social Situation 2016 - *Leaving no one behind* - uneven poverty reduction and persistent and increasing inequalities are among the world's most pressing concerns. However, these inequalities are not only between people; they are also between places.

Growing processes of economic concentration characterizing value chains (from production to distribution), continuing urbanization and a trend towards metropolization are common patterns. If they provide economies of scale, these patterns also result in strong negative externalities and strengthen within-country inequalities and disparities.

Exclusion of the poorest, economic insecurity for many family farmers and informal workers, regional marginalization, local pressure on natural resources, rising costs of urban sprawling, question the sustainability of the development model as a whole. Growing inequalities have also strong consequences on food security and nutrition: food security is first of all about local access, which depends on incomes and sustainability of livelihoods. Insecure access to safe and nutritious food, nutrition transitions and growing impacts of non-communicable diseases raise the issue of the viability of the existing globalizing food system.

This importance of livelihoods gives a particular prominence to local conditions determined by local assets and existing constraints within the overall country and regional structural characteristics. Economic diversification, demographic patterns (proportion of youth and labour force dynamics) and urbanization trends shape livelihood opportunities. These characteristics give different role to agriculture, rural areas and the urban fringe in achieving the ambitious objectives of reducing inequalities (SDG 10), eradicating hunger (SDG 2) and poverty (SDG 1).

Different structural dynamics result in different challenges. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, continuing rural population growth and limited employment opportunities in other sectors put pressure on agriculture: more workers per hectare require higher outputs (yields and product value). In South East Asia, a decreasing rural population leads to rising land per farmer and labour shortage, calling for increased labour productivity. Where strong rural-urban and international migration is at play rural feminization is an issue (Latin America), and the ageing of farm population (Europe) results in economic and spatial concentration of farm structures. Finally in all areas, the urban fringe emerges as a zone of particular interest as agricultural land is converted to urban settlements, a process that is frequently uneven and contested.

In addition, in developing countries, local effects of globalisation on rural areas offer new opportunities, but also weaken the historical ties between agriculture, industrialisation and urbanisation that have structured past economic transitions. Growing and asymmetric competition from abroad affects both urban food supply (cities often opting for cheap imports and convenience foods), and small enterprises specialised in equipment or consumer goods that compete with products from major emerging countries. This trend narrows the base of local economies and is an obstacle to their diversification.

However, everywhere, as a consequence of improved infrastructure in transportation and communication technologies, increasing mobility of people is progressively reshaping spatial patterns. The old rural-urban divide does not reflect any longer the complex relations that now exist between cities, their periphery and the countryside. This new reality is broadly ignored or underestimated by the existing public policies, the segmentation of which results in a juxtaposition of sectorial approaches that misses many possible synergies at the local and territorial level.

Sectorial policies cannot fit the purpose of inclusive structural transformation in such a complex context. A territorial focus promoting a comprehensive approach allows for seizing opportunities coming from intensifying urban-rural linkages. Place-based policies can improve synergies and facilitate the trade-off between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

The objectives of this parallel session are:

- To share views about the emerging trends in terms of rural transformation and their consequences for policy making.
- To discuss the opportunities and constraints of place-based approaches, particularly with regard to food security, livelihoods and poverty alleviation
- To take stock of existing experiences, successes and difficulties
- To identify the main obstacles to the adoption of place-based policies, their requirements, the type of support to their design and implementation
- To consider the potential of relocalization of the food system for a more balanced spatial development providing local opportunities in terms of activities and job creation and a more effective natural resource management.

The session will consist of three parts: a presentation of country experiences, a first panel discussion on concepts and methods, and a second panel discussion on lessons learned for policy support and implementation.

1/ The country experiences will provide evidence on territorial development policies and their direct or indirect impacts on food security, poverty alleviation and the promotion of local activities and employment. It is suggested to highlight the role of institutions, inclusion, innovation, information and investments in the process of territorial development.

2/ The first panel will bring together representatives of research institutions, universities and international organizations with experience and practice in territorial development. It will discuss:

- the requirements for the adoption of a territorial approach: information systems, diagnoses and assessments, importance and role of local participation, etc.
- the identification and definition of the “relevant” territory: “functional” region, trade flows, customer catchment areas (products and services), “food sheds”, etc.
- the sequencing and necessary steps for a successful territorial approach.

3/ Drawing on the first two parts, the second panel will gather representatives from governments, regional organizations and donors, and provide a forward-looking perspective to promote territorial approaches at scale by reflecting on:

- the potential of territorial approaches for development
- the obstacles to their adoption
- the main challenges in their implementation
- the role of international cooperation
- the necessary financial instruments for the promotion of territorial policies

Agenda and list of speakers

Part 1: Country experiences in territorial development

2 hours, 4 presentations, 15' per presentation, 60' for introduction of the session, Q&A and general debate

COUNTRY CASE STUDY	PRESENTER
1/ Niger	Mahamadou Saley, Initiative 3N
2/ Morocco	Lahcen Kenny, Region Souss Massa
3/ India	Elke Matthaei, GIZ
4/ Colombia and Latin America	Angela Penagos, RIMISP

Part 2: Panel on concepts, methods, approaches

45', 5 panellists, 5' per panellist, debate

ORGANIZATION	PANELLIST
1/ Center of Excellence in Food Security, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)	Julian May
2/ FAO	Domitille Vallee
3/ European Commission, DEVCO	Flora Geley
4/ UNCDF (Senegal)	Katiella Moussa
5/ University of Grenoble (France)	Bernard Pecqueur

Part 3: Lessons learned, options for policy support and implementation

45', 5 panellists, 5' per panellist, debate

ORGANIZATION	PANELLIST
1/ NEPAD	Martin Bwayla
2/ Haut Commissariat à la Sécurité alimentaire (Mali)	Dicko Bassa Diané
3/ European Commission, DEVCO	Tbc
4/ AFD (France)	Mathieu Boche
5/ GIZ (Germany)	Petra Jacobi