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## Rural development for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: fostering the rural-urban relationships

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# Rural development and its importance



- The definition of rural development has evolved through time;
- Rural development does NOT mean only agricultural development. **It's much more than that.**
- Rural development is a **strategy** and it **follows a continuous process** to improve economic and social life of rural people;
- **Growth in agriculture and rural sector of developing countries has a much greater impact in reducing poverty and hunger than do urban and industrial growth.**

# Rural development is inevitable for attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



In many developing countries over half of the population live in rural areas.

SDGs demands priority to rural areas.

# BUT Rural challenges are often severe and sometimes insurmountable

Globally, extreme poverty has been significantly reduced, but rural areas still lag behind.








- Earth has lost a third of arable land in past 40 years due to erosion or pollution;
- 70% of the world's food is produced by rural communities farming small plots of land;
- Wealth inequality is likely to be most acute between urban and rural communities - more than 80% of global GDP is generated in cities;
- Rural people disproportionately bear the brunt of climate change impacts.

Milman, O. (2 Dec, 2015). The Earth has lost a third of its farmable land — and it could have disastrous consequences for the global demand for food. The Guardian.

Ervin, J. (15 Feb, 2017). Rural communities: A hotspot for sustainable development, United Nations Development Programme



# The evolution towards a New Rural Development Paradigm

Principles	Key target sector	Main Approach	Actors	Main tools
Focus on rural areas only	Agriculture and rural communities	Project based (e.g. Green revolution, agricultural technology)	Government institutions, donors, farmers	Subsidies
				
Link to cities and regions	Multi-sector	Context based (e.g. natural, economic, social, institutional)	Multi-agent through participation and collaboration	Investments

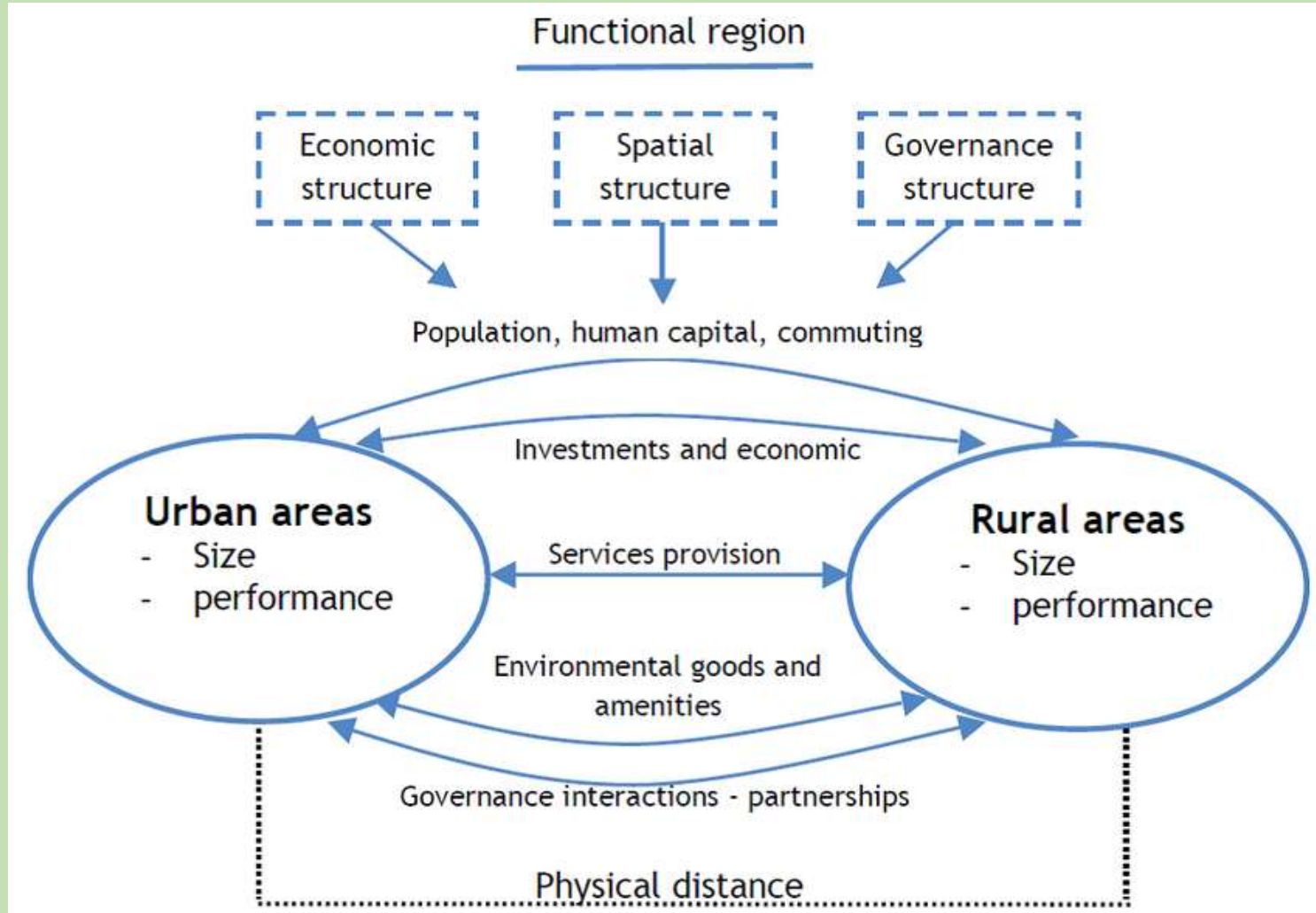
Masum (2017). Capacity development in response to changing concept of rural development, Presentation given at the International Conference on 'Integrated development of rural areas and territorial governance', 11-13 May, 2017, Jinan, China.  
 based on OECD (2016). A New Rural Development Paradigm for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, OECD Development Centre: Paris

# Rural-urban relationships: what is, what is not

- Generally refers to **two-way flows between rural and urban territories** of various sizes, which are functional and structural
  - Movements of people, goods, capital, services, information
  - Social transactions and administration / governance
  - Flows of technology, lifestyles, culture
- Often termed as ‘**rural-urban linkages**’.
- But, rural-urban relationship is NOT **rural-urban partnership**. **Rural-urban relationships refer to the actually operating, functional linkages between urban and rural areas**, whereas **urban-rural partnerships**, refer to the initiatives to formulate, adapt and implement an integrated policy (SPEPS 2000).

SPEPS (2000). Study Program on European Spatial Planning: A specific typology developed for the European territory, based on urbanization rate; rural population density; the degree of contrast in the distribution of settlement size; average distance to any urban settlement; the primacy of the largest city; and the size of the largest center

# Linkages between urban and rural areas

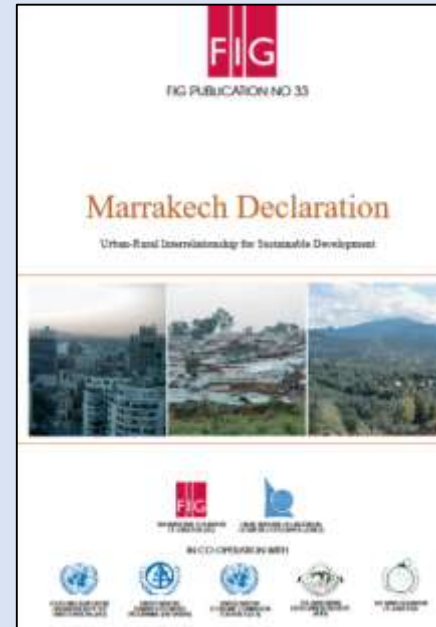
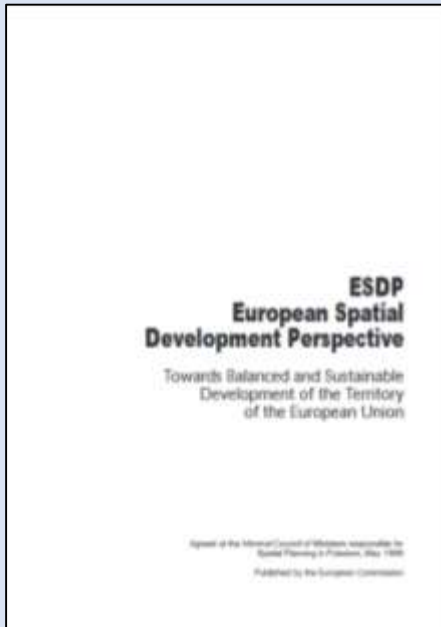




# The rationale for enhancing rural-urban relationships

- To reduce the inequality between urban and rural areas;
- To reduce the negative effects of urbanization (i.e. rural-urban migration, significant rural to urban shift);
- To ensure sustainable regional development through economic dynamics, social links and environmental synergies.

# Rural-Urban Relationships in Global Agenda



SDG 11: Target 11a

# UN-Habitat identified 10 points which are related to and influencing Urban-Rural Linkages from different perspectives:



- Spatial flows of products, services and information/expertise between urban and rural areas
- Reducing environmental impact in rural-urban convergences
- Urban-rural continuum in the face of conflicts and disasters
- Mobility and migration between urban and rural Areas
- Rural urbanization - the development of small and intermediate towns
- Territory and spatial planning for balanced urban and rural development
- Food security, systems and a ‘sustainability chain’ for all
- Enhancing legislative and governance, and capacity for urban-rural partnerships
- Inclusive investment and finance in both urban and rural areas
- A global partnership on promoting urban-rural linkages

## 3 Is: Entry points to foster urban-rural relationships

- Improving connectivity between urban and rural areas
- Investment in rural sector
- Institutional partnerships

# Role of HSS in rural development and establishing rural-urban relationships in China

- The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS) is one of the seven non-profit political organizations in the Federal Republic of Germany.
- It runs around 100 projects in more than 60 countries worldwide.
- Core concern of the international cooperation is fighting poverty and to enhance sustainable development.
- The HSS has been represented in People's Republic of China since 1987.

# Role of HSS in rural development and establishing rural-urban relationships in China



- Promoting rural development to create equal living conditions in rural and urban areas;
- Establishment of a seminar and coordination centre to promote rural development in China;
- Developing of model projects for land consolidation and village renewal, especially in western China;
- Develop and conduct training for professionals and managers;
- Establishment of organizational networks (e.g. research, education, advice and administration) concerning development of rural areas;
- Help and advice on the development of cooperative structures in rural areas.

**Thank You**