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# Balancing urban-rural development: how to reach the goal?

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# Rural Development Challenges

- Almost 80 percent of the world's hungry and poor live in rural areas (FAO 2015)
- Rural development faces the question of scarce resources.
- Migration is often a deliberate decision of rural people, which is the visible consequence of rural poverty and food insecurity, lack of employment and income opportunities, limited access to social protection, climate change and environmental degradation.
- A study undertaken by OECD (2016) shows that a large gap in economic and social conditions remain between urban and rural populations.

FAO (2015). FAO and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

OECD (2016). A new rural development paradigm for the 21st century. A toolkit for developing countries. Development Centre Studies, Paris: OECD publishing.

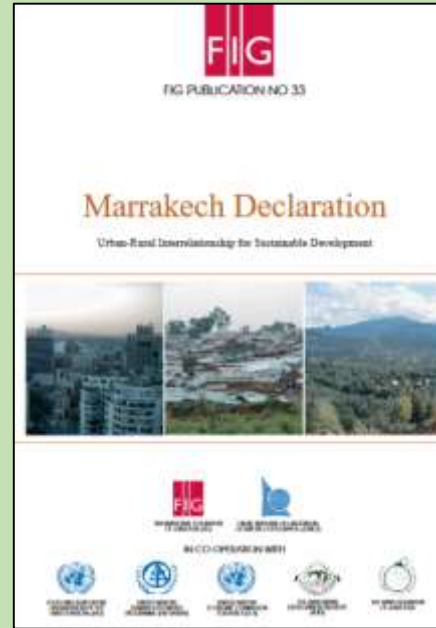
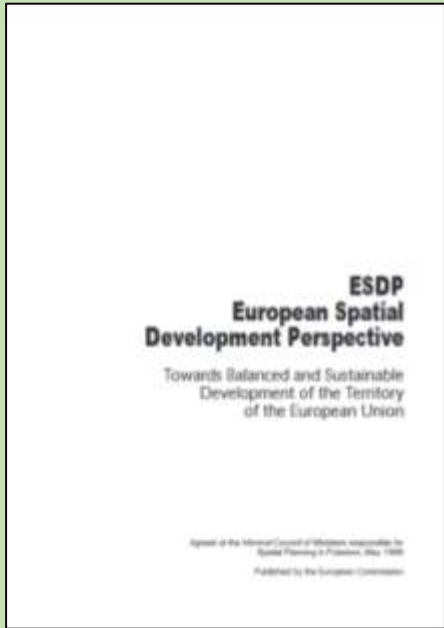
# Balancing rural-urban development is required

A balanced urban-rural development does not mean that urban and rural areas should develop at the same pace.

Rather, a reciprocal relationship is necessary which should be constructed upon a foundation of different dimensions of equality.

In the recent years within global agenda, the concept of urban-rural relationship or urban-rural linkage has emerged as a way of promoting the concept of a balanced urban-rural development or an integrated urban-rural development.

# Rural-Urban Relationships in Global Agenda



SDG 11: Target 11a

# Methodology:

## Overview of Hanns Seidel Foundation

- 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. To celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, HSS arranged a conference on 'Integrated Development of Rural Areas and Territorial Governance', May 11-13, 2017 in Jinan, China.

# Methodology:

## Data collection through workshop

- This paper summarizes the key findings of a workshop that took place on May 12, 2017 during the conference in Jinan.
- Around 60 participants worked in a homogeneous professional group
  - local practitioners,
  - academics,
  - planners, and
  - government employees at central level



Participants are working in a group



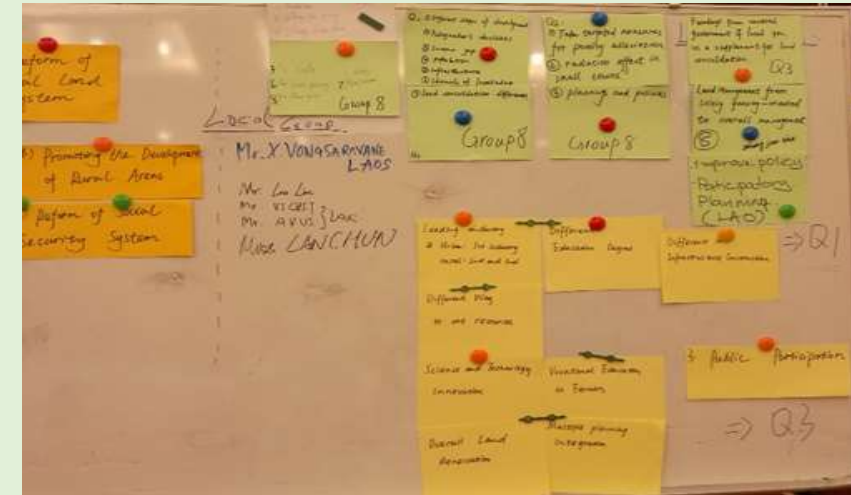


# Methodology:

## Data collection through workshop

The groups answered the following questions

1. What are the different factors underpinning the differences between urban and rural?
2. What measures should be undertaken to ensure a balanced urban and rural development?
3. What will be the role of the professional group to address the issues?



Findings of a group



A group presenting their findings

# Major Findings of 4 Professional Groups I

## Major Factors Causing Urban-Rural Gap

- Limited investment in rural sector
- Inadequate rural development policies
- Rural peoples' limited access to market
- Shrinking demography and social problems in rural areas
- Prevailing land tenure system



Urban-Rural Gap



## Measures to Bridge Urban-Rural Gap

- Investment in rural sector
- Institutional coordination
- Favourable rural development policies
- Apply broader concept of 'land management'
- Protect agricultural land
- Improve marketing interventions
- Improve rural security system
- Capacity development
- Gender issues



## Major Findings of 4 Professional Groups II

The participants agreed that different professional groups should support **developing strategies, tools and capacities** in the process of achieving sustainable development goals, aiming to reduce the rural-urban gap and to improve livelihood of rural people.

# Entry points and approaches to policy agenda

- Role of universities
- Value chain in rural development
- Knowledge sharing
- Digitalization and mobile services
- Need for rural conferences

# Conclusions

- No single criterion to ensure a balanced urban-rural development.
- It is a continuous process, and development approaches vary across national and regional contexts.
- There is a need for countries to learn from each other the lessons and experiences gathered, in order to formulate more effective urban-rural development agenda.
- Its importance should be reflected in the structure, framework and objective of a country's national policy.

**Thank You**