

IUDF INPUT ON RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES

Lindile L. Ndabeni, Strategic Workshop
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AREAS OF EMPHASIS IN THIS PRESENTATION

- Rationale for IUDF
- Rural-urban linkages as a complex phenomenon
- Political economy of rural-urban linkages
- Emerging themes
- Implications for rural development policy
- The language used should not privilege one and prejudice the other

POLITICAL ECONOMY

- We do not enter this debate as blind or neutral participants
- Acknowledge systemic forces, structural processes that produce and reproduce social realities
- Seek a better understanding of relationship between the interplay of ideology, culture, economy, and development (that benefits or constrain development)

RATIONALE FOR IUDF

- COGTA is coordinating Departments of Human Settlements, Transport, Water affairs and Environment, Rural Development and Land Reform, National Treasury to develop IUDF
- 6th World Urban Forum, September 2012- each member state should develop an urban development policy
- Chapter 8 of NDP- transforming human settlements and the national space economy
- Importance of integrating urban development to rural development

RATIONALE FOR IUDF

- The world is becoming more urbanized
- Most of this urbanization is expected to occur in developing countries
- Migration (not only driven by distress but other intangible factors- seeking higher levels of education) and transformation of rural settlements into urban spaces
- Monitoring these developments (urbanization)- speed and scale of this growth- remains a critical challenge

RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES

- The distinction between rural and urban has become blurred (existence of a web of inter-relationships and networks)
- Rural urban linkages is increasingly becoming an acceptable and more relevant approach
- Policy makers and development planners must analyse urban and rural contexts as united economic spheres

RURAL URBAN LINKAGES ARE COMPLEX

- Definition
- Entry point/s
- Framing the debate in ways that contribute to a shared vision of development planning
- Key drivers which define and influence the nature and form of rural urban linkages (resource linkages, migration, ICTs)

DEFINITION

- No single definition of rural and urban
- Everyone understands what is rural and what is urban but in different ways
- Countries use one or more of the following characteristics; population size threshold, population density, density of settlements, proportion of labour force engaged in non-farm work, political status, presence of particular services or activities

DEFINITION

- In South Africa, the definition of rural and urban is still work in progress
- Defining rural and urban is not necessarily a neutral process
- We are reminded that care must be taken that definition is not too complicated for application to the census and census results
- An approach to define rural and urban is then designed to suite the objectives of the agency doing the classification
- If urbanization as seen from social science perspective is advancing rapidly, then the statistician must catch up with his tools and methodologies so they reflect the new developments and emerging realities

DEFINITION

- Rural and urban areas are not homogeneous (within rural there is urban and within metro there is rural)
- Definition of rural and urban should take into account the particular social context of what defines rural and urban
- Definition must take into account all the characteristics that define rural and urban areas in that context
- Empirical reality versus abstract understanding of what is rural and what is urban

HISTORICAL ENTRY POINT

- The 1913 Land Act reduced the available land area that formed the backbone of the Black rural economy
- Following the passage of the 1913 Land Act, African peasants showed signs of agrarian degeneration and their rural underdevelopment was well underway.
- As a result, rural inhabitants became increasingly dependent on remittances from migrant labourers.

HISTORICAL ENTRY POINT

- The 1913 Land Act created a social class that was increasingly forced to sell its labour in order to survive
- The economic transition in South Africa affected both Blacks and Whites but in different degrees
- Since Blacks lacked political power, their employment in urban areas entrenched a migratory labour system and a whole range of measures were designed to prevent their complete proletarianization

EMERGING THEMES

- Gender (feminization of poverty)
- Youth (impact of urbanization on young people and how young people view urbanization)
- The political economy of young people's poverty and social exclusion
- Youth marginalisation, unemployment, migration, informal livelihoods, and their living conditions
- Role of small towns (pay attention to the development of small towns and build their capacities to deal with development challenges)

EMERGING THEMES

- Migration (its influence on urbanization of poverty)
- Key drivers of rural urban linkages as they define and influence the variety of these linkages (resource linkages such as water, infrastructure and mobility, flow of ideas, flow of information, innovation systems)
- Environment
- Rural development policy

RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Our concern as cities, policy makers, and development planners is that viewing urban development as completely distinct from rural development is no longer valid
- These linkages occur within a political economy
- The rural urban linkages are not all positive or beneficial to both spaces
- People who choose to remain in rural areas should still be guaranteed a better life (improved conditions of living)
- Targeted rural development policy should also incorporate more urbanized areas

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Poverty, unemployment, inequality, and environmental challenges are national problems that require both rural and urban spaces to deal with them collectively
- Rural urban linkages emphasizes the need that development planners and policy makers should increasingly think of the impact of their development interventions in ways that reflect rural and urban economies as a united whole
- Need to increasingly institutionalize and integrate rural urban linkages at national, provincial and city/ local levels development processes

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Leverage development interventions designed in one area to produce positive development outcomes in another context
- More strategies that put into perspective the needs and interests of both rural and urban places
- Such strategies will be useful where they increasingly reinforce and strengthen these linkages
- Increased need for competence building in this form of development approach and think of our contribution beyond our borders including SADC and Africa
- Our contribution as an emerging voice in Africa especially on development alternatives

END

THANK YOU

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What is the key research question / issue / message regarding rural – urban relationships emerging for:

1. For Cities (local):
2. For SACN (cities' planning & governance):
3. For National – IUDF:
4. For Other roleplayer(s):