

Documentary Report

To stay or not to stay?

Rural areas and migration

Imprint

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Abbreviations

BDL	Bund der Deutschen Landjugend / German Rural Youth League
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung / German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIM	Centre for International Migration and Development
DKF e.V.	Deutsch Kolumbianischer Freundeskreis e.V. / German-Columbian Circle of Friends
ESPON	European Spatial Planning Observation Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFR	Financing Facility for Remittances
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung (GIZ) GmbH
GMR	Global Monitoring Report
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IfL	Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISOE	Institute for Social-Ecological Research
NHFPC	National Health and Family Planning Commission
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
RIMISP	Latin American Center for Rural Development
RNFE	Rural Non- Farm Economy
SEMIGRA	Selective Migration and Unbalanced Sex Ratio in Rural Regions
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION



1 Why talking about migration in rural areas?

Alongside international migration, the movement of people from rural areas to urban centres often within country borders increasingly gains attention – according to the United Nations, there are 740 million internal migrants worldwide and the imbalance between urban and rural regions is growing. Experts estimate that by 2030, more people will be living in cities than ever before and that the rural population will be in decline for the first time ever.¹

Rural areas are often perceived as “migration losers” while cities are considered “migration winners”. However, on the one hand, urban centres also face challenges regarding in-migration (infrastructure, urban planning, health and environmental risks just to name a few); while on the other hand, rural areas can also benefit from out-migration (through remittances, knowledge transfer etc.) The picture is a lot more diverse than it might appear at first sight.

People have many different reasons for migration. Personal reasons like search for better education, work or life experience abroad; family decisions regarding diversification of income or education as a family investment in the future, or exogenous reasons like changing climatic and environmental conditions such as flooding, drought, erosion, desertification etc. In general there is not only one reason behind the decision to move, but migration is a multi-causal phenomenon.

These dynamics also gain interest in the development context as the potential migration offers both for regions of origin and destination is increasingly being recognized. At the same time there is also awareness that risks related to migration need to be addressed. German development cooperation has realized the importance of the topic and has been working on the nexus of migration and development since 2006.

This year’s Eschborn Dialogue took up the topic of Migration, Mobility, and Digital Change. The thematic forum “Rural areas and migration – to stay or not to stay?” took up the above mentioned complex facets of the topic of migration in and from rural areas. The forum combined presentations, discussions, interviews, video clips and improtheater on a wide variety of aspects around internal migration and its influences on rural areas from different countries all over the world.

This documentation provides an overview of the vast spectrum of topics covered by the event from telecommunication innovations, fundamentally changing the banking system in some countries and thus also the living conditions of rural populations; to philanthropic engagement of Colombian migrants in Germany who support villages and local communities in their homeland through projects.

The overall questions of the forum were the following: how can this imbalance between depopulation on the one hand and overloading regions on the other be tackled? How does migration influence rural development and how can we ensure the future of rural populations? What opportunities does migration present for people from rural areas? These key issues were focused during the forum and will also lead you through the present documentation.

We hope this summary of the most important findings of the very rich discussions proves to be interesting to you!

Stephanie Deubler, GIZ Advisor in the Sectoral Project Migration and Development
Caroline Schäfer, GIZ Advisor in the Sectoral Project Rural Development

¹ United Nations (2005): Population Challenges and Development Goals. New York.

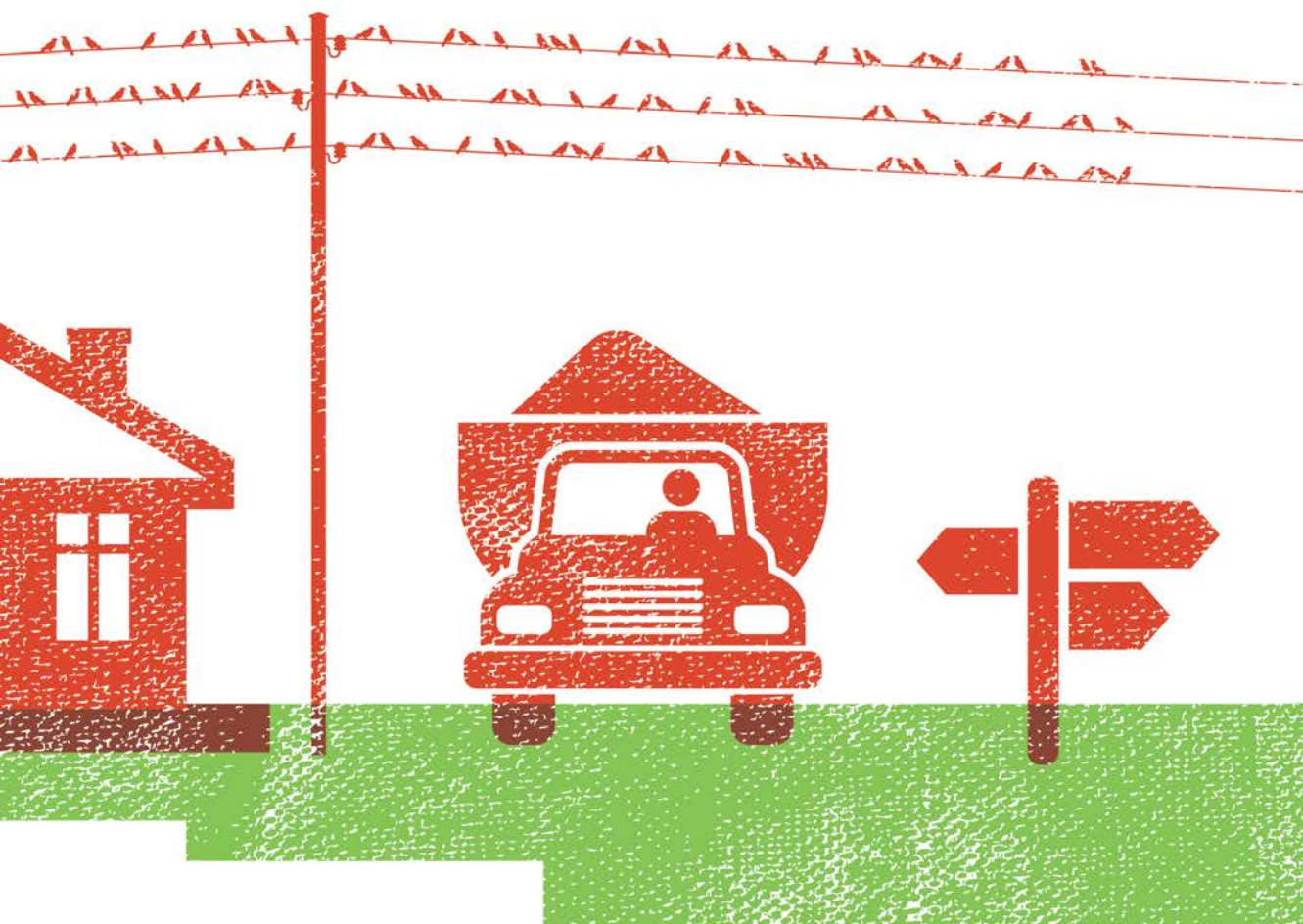
2 To stay or not to stay?

Introductory thoughts around a simple sounding question

To stay - or not to stay? A simple sounding question, yet one with depth and a set of profound implications. Most certainly, everybody has or will come along this question every now and then in his or her life. Depending on where one is born and under which conditions one is raised, or what dreams one pursues, many people throughout the world – whether they're young or old, less or better educated, poor or affluent - are facing the question: Should I stay or should I go? This question moves millions of people in their

everyday life. Clearly, everyone has to weigh their pros and cons, each family or sometimes even whole communities have to reason, whether they decide to migrate or not to migrate.

But migration is an issue that raises concerns among society and politics. Should migration be promoted or prevented? Can or even must politics have an influence on migration patterns and control its impacts? And if politicians influence migration, the next question is how and with which consequences it occurs.



Some of the reasons why so many people are “on the move” are natural disasters or constraints such as floods, droughts or sea level rise. However, even more people migrate especially from rural areas towards urban regions due to the structural transformations linked with today’s world economy.

It was the Canadian-British author and journalist Doug Saunders who stated that today a third of humanity is on the move. Following his projection, we are currently observing the largest migration ever in human history. This migration is changing natural as well as social landscapes at the beginning of the 21st century: it is creating new urban spaces that are about to become focal points of conflict, change and transformation. This migration will reshape our cities and rural areas and reconfigure our economies.

According to the United Nations Development Program, around 740 million people in the world are internal migrants and approximately another 90 million have moved within their developing country regions. They have decided to move for the prospect of a better life offering them more chances than any of the alternatives available to them. Yet, origin and destination communities and various political authorities often see migration as a problem or the result of policy failure.

To evaluate both chances and challenges of migration, we need to take a deeper look on the positive aspects and effects associated with migration – being aware that we have a tendency to rather refer to the risks and threats when we think of women and men who leave their rural home.

It is not the intention of the expert forum to develop strategies on how to prevent people from migrating. History shows that one will never prevent somebody from moving, if he or she really wants to move. No! At least not on the long run.

The objective of this documentation is to highlight the chances migration can bring to people living in rural areas as well as in cities. We want to take a look on different perspectives, reasons and opportunities that arise, when women and men leave their rural home and move towards a city or a different region. And by doing so, we must not forget to look at the people who remain in rural areas and at those who return after a certain period of time. In many countries, those who are left behind belong to the most vulnerable groups of society: Children, women and the elderly. Their issues are typically addressed by development cooperation, and these groups benefit from social protection networks. But what happens in reality? How do those groups interact with migrants within their families and what are the consequences for them? There are plenty of innovations developed and introduced by people when they migrate, especially when they stay in contact with their home regions and support their families. Through remittances and the transfer of technology and knowledge the world gets “smaller”. People as well as regions are linked with and benefit from the people who leave their home country or area behind. In today’s economies and the job market in particular, international experiences that migrants gain are of high importance; for the employee as well as the employer. Migration is being looked at as a resource, a social resource, that people bring along with them and all kinds of companies can profit from the capacities migrants have to offer.

Albert Engel, GIZ Deputy Director General

PART TWO:

THEMATIC INPUTS







Dr. Steve Wiggins, Senior Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in England, in the area Agricultural Development and Policy. He has been studying and working on agricultural and rural development in Africa and Latin America since 1972. His recent work centres on food prices and the implications of the 2007/08 cereals price spike, food security and nutrition, and policy for agricultural development.

1 Rapid Rural Transformation – Policy Issues for a Gentle-Transition

Transformations and transitions

The share of agriculture in employment usually lags behind the share in output, indicating that until economies achieve high incomes, labour productivity in agriculture is usually (well) below the economy's average. This does not mean that agriculture gets smaller absolutely: on the contrary it has to grow to provide food and raw materials for the rest of the economy. But relative to other sectors it becomes less important.

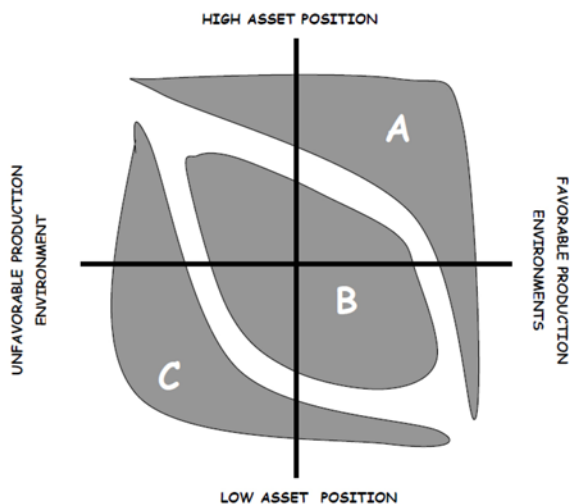
Hence if we have agriculture contributing a smaller share of economic output, and reducing its share of labour, then many of those households working in agriculture in the developing world today will not be doing so in the medium future.

That is why we need to provide people who currently work in agriculture, with options that allow them choices during these transitions. At one end of the spectrum some smallholder households will specialise in farming, producing mainly for the market and work full time (or at least one member of the household will) on the farm. But others may keep their land but farm it part-time, in the evenings, at weekends or during holidays. Their main income may come

from the rural non-farm economy (RNFE) – trading, agricultural processing, local services, etc., or from commuting to local urban centres. Lastly there will be some, who will leave the land and the village, and migrate to towns and cities. Members of households will have different possibilities to follow one or a combination of these options owing to education, access to capital and land: they will have different preferences for kinds of work and where they want to live.

Policy implications

Berdegú & Escobar (2001) of the Latin American Centre for Rural Development



(RIMISP) developed the preceding graphic which shows that the prospects of family farmers in Latin-America today can be divided on two axes: one defined by household assets, the other by the environment of the household, the latter a combination of market access plus physical conditions for farming. The chart then situates three groups of smallholders along these axes. Class A farmers with consolidated households have the assets, access to markets and natural resources to produce more, commercialise and become full-time farmers with only basic policy support.

Subsistence households in Class C, in contrast, have fewer options: they lack assets, access to markets and good natural resources to farm their way out of poverty: most of their income comes from off-farm labouring, migration, and transfers. That said, for this group, farm production may be critical to survival, especially when opportunities off the farm are scarce.

In between are the Class B farmers, households that have some assets, access to markets and natural resources. Given some public support to overcome their current disadvantages, they may be able to join the Class A households as full-time small farmers.

RIMISP has estimated the number of rural households that may lie in each of these groups for twelve Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) to which may be added households that operate large commercial farms and the landless. The resulting distribution of the nearly 19.5 million rural households living in the 12 Latin American countries in 2008 shows that only 3 % are commercial farms, 9 % are class A family farms, 20 % are class B family farms, the huge number of 43 % are class C family farms and 25 % are landless. This is the situation in Latin America. Although comparable statistics for Africa or Asia are not readily available, surveys in

these regions show similar levels of differentiation across rural households. But probably not all of these farmers will continue like that in the future. The most feasible option of a benign transition is developing 29 % (class A + class B family farms) of the current smallholdings into more intensively cultivated small-scale commercial holdings. This will generate jobs on farms and in the local rural economy – since smallholders are more likely to spend their earnings on locally produced services than owners of large farms. The numbers who would need to find work in the cities in the short to medium terms would be fewer than in the first two options.

What should public policy do to make this option possible and to include the B smallholders in agricultural development? The difference between them and the A smallholders is either lack of assets, a poor environment, or both. Assets can be improved by increasing the capability of the farm household members, through education and training. Assets may be complemented by access to credits, which means developing rural financial services. It also means giving people access to farm inputs. While some aspects of the environment, such as the weather, cannot be changed, others can: better roads can reduce the cost of reaching markets and irrigation can transform the potential of rain-fed fields. The Class C farming households will not necessarily abandon their farms in the short run. Most likely they will farm what little land they have largely for household consumption. As and when incomes rise from off-farm work, these households may progressively lend, rent and eventually sell their land to family and neighbours who are full-time farmers. Since most of these farm households will continue to farm their land for their own subsistence, they need agricultural policies that will allow them to do this better, with their limited means.



Dr. Cecilia Tacoli, Principal Researcher and co-Head, Human Settlements

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(IIED). Since 1996 Dr. Cecilia Tacoli works on the subjects of rural-urban

linkages, migration, mobility and climate change. Her current work focuses

on the role of small urban centres in the development of their surrounding region, livelihood diversification and rural non-farm employment, transformations in peri-urban areas. She gained her PhD in Geography of the London School of Economics.

2 Climate induced migration

Migration and climate change are topics of increasing interest and their relevance for rural areas is obvious: There is a need to integrate climate induced migration into the wider context of rural-urban transitions and there is a need to move from adaptation to transformative resilience

(and the implications for policy and development cooperation). Until the 5th IPCC Assessment Report adaptation and mitigation were central to any climate change discussion. Recent scientific reports however suggest that whatever any future scenario might be, adaptation will never



be enough. The levels of changes which are already happening will call for much more than adaptation. Within this context transformative resilience as a rather new concept plays an important role. Transformative resilience has its origin in scientific communities and it is based on the concept of resilience, where systems can go back to the same status as before. However, in the understanding of social scientists going back to status quo is not necessarily desirable in the context of climate change. Transformative resilience is thus a first attempt to conceptualize how development can be included into the resilience context.

Impacts on mobility

Migration linked to slow-onset climate change is different from displacement due to extreme weather events. In general, a distinction must be drawn between displacement resulting

from disasters and migration in general, which is based on multi-causal factors. Migration is often triggered by “tipping points” that are the combination of socio-economic and environmental factors (and are context and group-specific). Climate only becomes a problem when all other factors are not supporting livelihood, e.g. when there are only limited opportunities for rural non-farm employment. Climate change has a disproportionately strong impact on the poorest groups. Locally declining farm incomes and limited opportunities for rural non-farm employment are major factors of migration decisions, linked to environmental and economic factors. Consequences are urbanization trends linked to increasing concentrations of employment and economic growth in urban-based, non-farm sectors. Hence, policies need to address both rural and urban areas in order to tackle development challenges.

Reasons for migration

Migration and mobility in the context of climate change are highly diverse and information about destinations, duration and composition of the flows is lacking. However, two broad categories can be identified in the climate–migration context: First, permanent rural-urban migration of wealthier groups of society is in general not affected by climate change. Migration is rather considered part of the trajectory of wealthy families, where children are often sent to larger urban centres for education purposes. Second, temporary migration of poorer groups is often strongly affected by climate change. In addition, increasing labour demand in urban centres leads to an increase in independent movements of women and youth. Moreover, a growing percentage of rural households are net food buyers – income diversification is the key for their food security. Remittances are crucial for innovation and investment in family farms. However, besides this positive role of remittances, one has to consider that poor migrants' and the urban poor's costs of living are disproportionately high, and many have insecure/inadequate incomes and shelter.

Complexity of migration and climate change

The success of smallholder/family farming is often linked to non-farm incomes. Studies have shown that in many cases migration is a family livelihood decision with one family member migrating and sending money home to the family. This type of migration is not always only rural-urban but often so called “mobility loops” exist, i.e. seasonal rural-rural migrants compensate for labour shortages due to rural-urban migration. This shows the complexity of migration in the context of rural-urban linkages which needs to be understood and taking into account.

Climate change can be considered a multiplier of migration factors and patterns. Development must look beyond a mere adaption discourse and address the diversification of livelihoods in order to achieve sustainable solutions in terms of reduction of poverty and inequality.

Urbanisation

“Urban” has to be considered as an essential component in the (rural) development discourse. Urban centres provide access to markets, basic services, the rule of law etc. to rural landscapes. Urbanisation is closely correlated to economic success. An often overlooked aspect in this context is the role of small towns in rural development in terms of governance. Supporting rural-urban transitions and governance systems in urban areas, especially in small towns where local government's capacity, revenue and accountability are often weak, is therefore very important.

What exactly is the role of migration in transformative resilience?

That is a tricky question because transformative resilience is just starting to emerge as a concept. It is increasingly obvious that adaptation and mitigation alone will not be sufficient to resolve the issues many regions are facing from climate change. There are different aspects why migration is a relevant topic in the context of climate change. People choose migration as a livelihood strategy to diversify family income – migration is thus an option for adaptation. However, people not only move away from environmental vulnerability but often migrate to places which are even more exposed to environmental hazards. These different factors have to be considered and understood in order to conceptualize interventions in the context of rural development.







Shameer Khanal, Programme Component Leader for GIZ Uzbekistan.

Responsible for the management and implementation of the GIZ flagship programme on Sustainable Economic Development in Uzbekistan, Shameer Khanal plays a key role in development of strategic framework for German

Technical Assistance in Uzbekistan. Building on his Master degree in Business Administration and his years of working experience he is an expert for economic policy.

3 Internal Labour Migration – A Central Asian Experience

Migration patterns in Uzbekistan and Central Asia

Internal migration within Uzbekistan and intra-regional migration in Central Asia are both important realities. Due to a shortage in permanent work and opportunities to generate income in rural areas, people look for short-term employment opportunities in urban areas, where there is a high demand for low qualified labour. Internal migration flows are predominantly young, both male and female with women

working as domestic servants or in the urban agriculture and food processing sectors, and men often ending up in so called 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous, demeaning). So called “Mardikor bazars” are very popular in Uzbekistan, where jobs are mostly offered just for one day and the price for the job has to be negotiated every day anew. Skilled workers often migrate within the region, especially to Kazakhstan and Russia. Those educated abroad are also attracted by urban areas where they can more easily find adequate employment opportunities.



Implications of migration

One of the downsides of migration is the constant decline in productive population in rural areas. There is a huge gap between a young generation which is below 12 years old and people who are above 65 years old – labour shortages in rural areas are common and social insecurity leaves entire families in vulnerable situations.

A very specific feature is Uzbekistan's law that requires citizens to be legally registered at their place of residence and to obtain a permission to move within the country. This registration system is called *propiska*. Many internal migrants dread the complicated procedures and thus evade this system.

Engagement of GIZ Uzbekistan

GIZ and the Ministry of Labour in are setting up a small employment centre to facilitate the matching of supply and demand on the labour market. Furthermore, this centre supports migrants who return to their home countries to pass on knowledge about their migration

experience to prospective migrants.

Since 2009, GIZ Uzbekistan together with CIM (Centre for International Migration and Development, a joint operation of GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency) has been implementing financial literacy trainings, targeting migrants' families receiving remittances. As a first step, bankers were educated on how to communicate with recipients of remittances and to offer them options on savings or investment possibilities. This resulted in an increase in terms of number of clients for the bank which is not only a benefit for the bank, but at the same time also for the families who have more options to use their remittances. In addition, GIZ and CIM piloted business plan trainings in three regions specifically targeting labour migrants, their families and potential business partners.

Final considerations

Firstly, labour migration and remittances have played a key part in reducing poverty levels in rural areas. Secondly, internal labour migration leads to a disproportionate increase in urban population growth (mainly due to many arriving job seekers) relative to growth rates in rural areas.



Tim Leibert, Research Assistant for the Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)

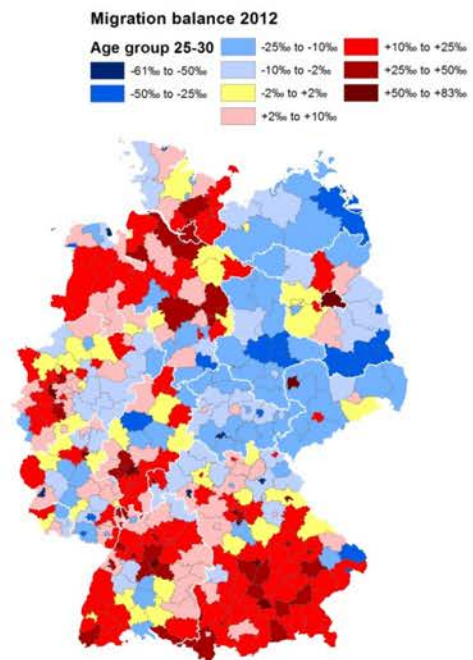
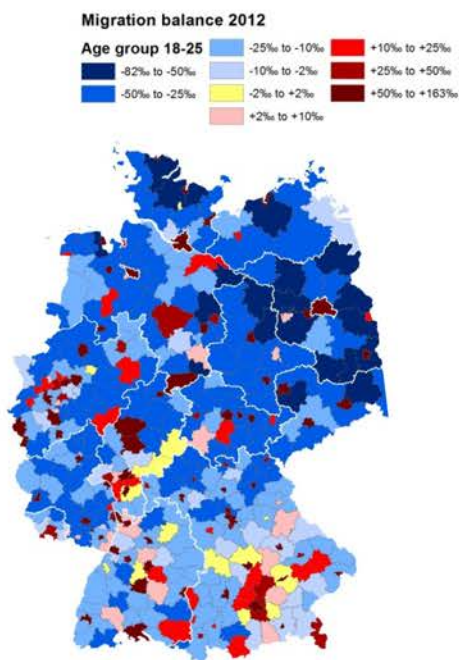
As geography and political-science graduate, Tim Leibert deals with the topics of demographic change, fertility and family education in the EU and EFTA states. He specializes in population geography, quantitative methods of social research, and transition countries.

4 Transformation and demographic change in Germany: Shrinking rural societies in Germany

The Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) is the lead partner for the EU funded European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) project for Selective Migration and Unbalanced Sex Ratio in Rural Regions (SEMIGRA) in cooperation with institutes in Sweden, Finland and Hungary. Within this project the IfL works on migration movements of different social population groups in Germany.

Selective migration within Germany

Population groups are different regarding their level of mobility. Highly mobile groups are young people, women and skilled workers, education migrants aged between 18 and 25 and workplace migrants aged from 25 to 30. The selectivity of migration movements in Germany is clearly visible in local migration patterns. The two maps (for both groups) of migration



balance in Germany in 2012 show the regions affected by out-Migration in blue (the stronger the emigration the darker the blue), the regions with a balanced immigration and emigration pattern in yellow and the regions internal migrants move to in red. It is obvious that young people (18-25) are leaving their home regions. The education migrants are moving to the cities because of favourable framework conditions in terms of education and a more diversified labour market. Exceptions are rural districts with district university towns such as the District of Gießen and the District of Göttingen.

The age group 25-30 is moving slightly different. They have completed their professional training, have probably already found a permanent job and might plan to start a family. In this stage of life, immigrants outnumber emigrants in rural areas in the economic core zones of Germany like Upper Bavaria / Munich, Rhein-Main region, Rhein-Neckar region or the greater Hamburg area. Important hard location factors for rural areas are cheap real estate prices compared to the urban areas. Classical shrinking areas in the western part of Germany are Upper Franconia, the Nordpfalz Region and Northern Hesse. Furthermore all eastern parts of Germany are shrinking areas. Young people are leaving their regions because they see no personal and professional possibilities. But their emigration has influence on the whole region which can lead into a downward spiral. Agriculture declined in importance, services and infrastructure can no longer be maintained and aging increases. This development leads to a “no future” atmosphere.

Sex selective migration

Compared to other European regions, a disproportionately high number of young women are leaving the eastern regions of Germany. These regions are characterized by an extreme surplus of men in the age group 20-34 and potential mothers are scarce. However, the framework conditions in

the eastern regions of Germany are not especially different compared to other European regions. The reasons behind this phenomenon are diverse, such as different conceptions of women's life; individual framework conditions, life plans and social networks. The western part of Germany is known for living the “male-bread-winner model”, whereas in the eastern part of Germany the dual-earner model prevails. This is one of the reasons why East German women are having a higher labour market orientation than their West German female fellow citizens.

Culture of migration

There seems to be a culture of migration in Eastern Germany where on the one hand, parents encourage their children to migrate and where “going West” is considered a typical path to adulthood. Hence, leaving rural Eastern Germany is not only completely accepted, but even seen as desirable. Staying is often associated with fear of economic marginalization as young people are often ill-informed about possibilities on the local labour market.

There exist several possible policy responses to address out-migration from rural regions:

- **Avoidance strategy:** Implement measures to limit out-migration (difficult and problematic);
- **Rooting strategy:** Implement measures to strengthen place-attachment and to increase re-migration (e.g. by fostering telework or commuting);
- **Attraction strategy:** Implement measures to attract newcomers, esp. young families with a preference for rural living (challenge: integration of newcomers);
- **Mitigation strategy:** Implement measures to deal with the negative consequences of selective out-migration.

Any strategy has to take into account that the needs and interests of young people and rural societies are might diverge and that some people just prefer living in or close to urban centres.



Qian Wang Director General and Associate Research Fellow of the Department of Migrant Population Management, National Health and Family Planning Commission. He holds a LL.M. in demographic statistics at the Renmin University of China and is engaged in the subject of demographic statistics, survey, planning, evaluation and informatization. Qian Wang is currently responsible for a nation-wide dynamic monitoring and survey of migrant population, population migration forecast and social cohesion of migrant population.

5 Internal migration in China



In China, the hukou system (household registration system) has triggered two types of migration: One is a narrow definition of migration where both the place of residence and the place of hukou registration move simultaneously. There are 25 - 27 million migrants of this kind annually in China. The second type is referring to the situation where only the place of residence shifts from one place to another, while the place of the hukou registration remains unchanged. For persons with rural origin descent it is indeed very difficult to obtain a hukou registration in cities (especially in larger cities). Internal migrants which live away from their place of Hukou registration for at least 1-6 months are called migrant or, to highlight the difference to hukou-migration, floating population. In general this group keeps a strong relationship with their place of hukou registration. They often move between the place of origin and destination regularly, especially when they keep family ties with their place of origin.

With the reform and opening up era, since 1978, China's migrant population has increased sharply. There were about 250 million "floating" migrants at the end of 2013. Rural-to-urban migration was considered a very efficient way for hundreds of millions of surplus agricultural labourers to be employed in non-agricultural sectors. In 1978 for example, more than 350 million surplus agricultural labours posed a big challenge for the country and the livelihoods of the rural population. 30 years later, most of the surplus agricultural labourers were absorbed by non-agricultural jobs in cities.

Due to these developments, China's economy was able to shift from a labour-intensive to a technology-intensive pattern. The usually strong relationship of rural-to-urban migrants with their left-behind family members in the villages led to a huge amount of remittances and increased rural income. According to a World Bank study, each rural-to-urban migrant remits 3500 RMB Yuan back to their family and the total remittances are

as much as 250 billion RMB Yuan. According to survey data collected by the Department of Migrant Population Management of the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHF-PC) the average and total remittances could be even higher than these World Bank's estimations.

In 1988 92 % of China's total population was living within the same county of their place of birth. By 2010 this percentage had dropped to 70 %. At the same time there are challenges such as huge numbers of left-behind family members. In 2010, nationwide there were 50 million left-behind elderly, 61 million left-behind children and 15 million left-behind spouses.

Rural-to-migrant migration is not only an important factor in rural areas but also a necessity for urban development. Migrant workers account for 22 % of GDP growth. Migrant workers account for a large percentage of the urban labour force (in Beijing 39.68 %) and the majority of new labour supply in cities derives from rural-to-urban migration (73.64 % in Beijing from 2000 to 2010).

At the same time, many challenges still have to be overcome: The hukou system has established a rural-urban divide with different social schemes and entitlements for rural and urban citizens respectively. Rural-to-urban migrants are excluded from many entitlements, which urban hukou holder enjoy. The last decade has seen important reforms to successively equalize the access to social security and public services in the cities. However, it is still a long way to go to establish equality.

At the same time, the urban areas struggle with urban management, (more demand for urban public services), insufficient supply of housing, education and health. Therefore the NHFPC tries to provide basic public service for all rural-to-urban migrants in order to ensure that everybody can enjoy basic public service in cities.

¹ World Bank (2008): China urbanizes: consequences, strategies, and policies / edited by Shahid Yusuf and Anthony Saich. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEAECOPRO/Resources/3087694-1206446474145/China_Urbanizes_Complete.pdf



PART THREE:

DISCUSSION







1 ...talking about FOOD SECURITY

Achieving food security for everyone is a major global challenge. Almost two billion people lack secure access to an appropriate, balanced diet. The consequences of undernourishment are very severe, for infants in particular: extended phases of undernourishment and malnutrition cause irreversible growth and developmental disorders. Migration plays an important role to improve household food security, as in most households remittances are largely used for daily consumption. At the same time, rural areas are also production sites for agricultural products which are as well needed in urban areas.



Björn Schildberg, policy advisor in the special unit "One World - No Hunger", works on the support of food value chains, agricultural trade, investments in the food and agricultural sector and the cooperation with the German private sector in this regard. Björn Schildberg has a master in economics and has formerly implemented projects in the field of trade integration in the Middle East.

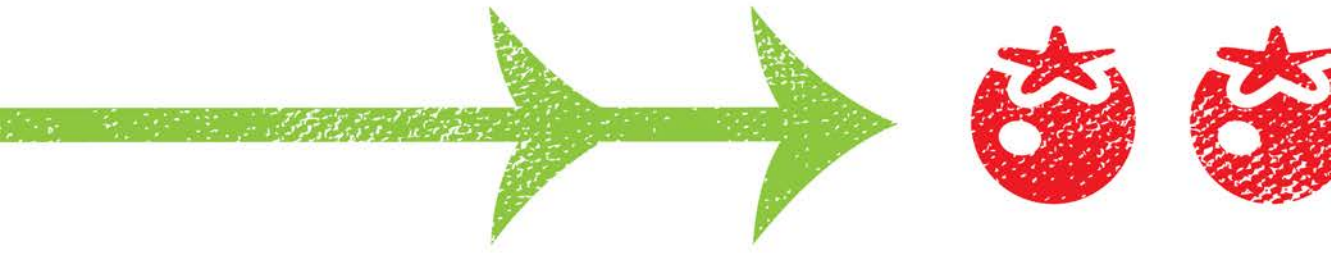
1.1 The new orientations of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) regarding rural development

The BMZ has made a commitment to provide a minimum of one billion euros a year for rural development and food and nutrition security. The activities funded with that money will all come under the umbrella of the One World – No Hunger initiative.

This initiative addresses all the dimensions of the future post-2015 agenda: (1) eradicating poverty and hunger; (2) creating jobs and income;

(3) safeguarding the integrity of creation; (4) strengthening good governance and building peace.

The special initiative will be implemented through bilateral and multilateral development cooperation and through partnerships with enterprises, business associations, civil society, and academia. The BMZ's involvement in developing international goals, standards and guidelines for



global food and nutrition security is also part of the special initiative.

The initiative addresses six areas of intervention:

1. Food and nutrition security.

Efforts aimed at the structural reduction of hunger and malnutrition, especially in mothers and young children, are the most effective investment in the future. A wide range of measures to improve food and nutrition security will be undertaken in specific countries that are particularly affected by hunger and malnutrition.

2. Enhance resilience to prevent famine.

This involves, among other things, systematic efforts to link humanitarian emergency aid, early recovery and long-term developmental activities; better risk management to enhance resilience against crisis, disaster and conflict; and efforts to reduce food speculation.

3. Promote innovation.

Technical and institutional innovation has for a long time been a driving force behind increases in agricultural productivity. That innovation must continue to be harnessed in the interests of development. In addition to efforts to enhance international agricultural research in general, there is a special focus on developing innovation centres that address the entire agricultural value chain.

4. Promote socially and environmentally sound structural change in rural areas.

Efforts to address hunger need to focus on rural areas – which is where the vast majority

of poor and hungry people live. The primary focus is on the development of productive family farms and on stimulating rural economic development in general.

5. Promote the protection and sustainable use of natural resources in rural areas.

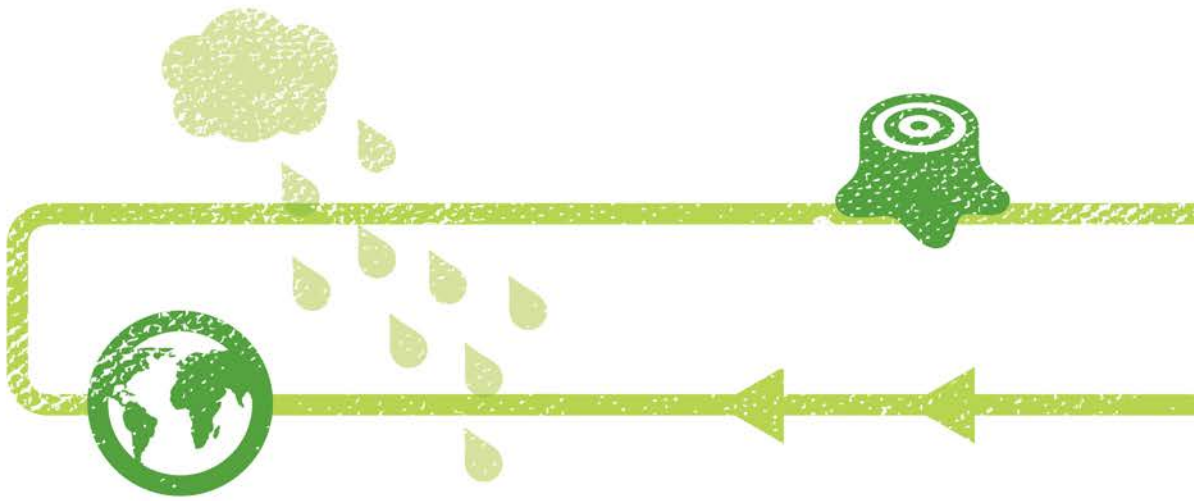
This means primarily developing a sustainable form of agriculture worldwide which protects its own natural production base and continues to be able to feed a growing global population. Efforts focus on launching an international donor initiative to restore the fertility of degraded land.

6. Promote responsible land use and access to land.

Secure and fair land rights are a vital prerequisite for development (as clear historical evidence shows). As part of a land action plan, the BMZ supports the implementation of FAO's voluntary guidelines on land tenure.

Which impacts do rural-urban linkages have for rural development policy of the BMZ?

The need for innovation in rural areas is a very important topic. The transfer of knowledge, information and skills from urban to rural areas is essential to ensure that both regions benefit from migration. Another point which should not be forgotten is certain ecosystem services from rural areas which are provided for urban areas. That is why we have to assure that the rural development is ecosystem friendly and adapted to climate change.



PD Dr. Diana Hummel, Member of the Executive Board at the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE), is an assistant professor of Social Sciences in the Department of Political Science at Goethe University Frankfurt. Her research focuses on population development and socio-economic supply systems, biodiversity, climate change, environmental change and migration, gender and environment.

1.2 “Climate Change, Environment and Migration in the Sahel” (micle) – experiences of a research project by ISOE

The research project

The objective of the project “Climate Change, Environment and Migration in the Sahel (micle)” was to investigate the interactions between climate change, environmental changes and migration in two selected regions in the West African Sahel: Bandiagara in Mali and Linguère in Senegal. The major focus of research was on the issue of land degradation. The two regions were selected for the fact that they are subject to an increasing out-migration and because land degradation is a serious problem. A survey with 900 participants was conducted in the two study regions.

Climatic and anthropogenic situation

The survey area suffered from severe droughts in the 1970ies and 1980ies, contributing heavily to famines and the displacements and deaths of thousands people. Since then, precipitation and the variability of rainfall increased again, with stronger precipitation leading to more vegetation. Currently, the diversity among trees is declining, and land degradation is increasing. The reasons are both climatic and anthropogenic. On the one hand there are drought, less rain and higher temperatures as a result of climate change. On the other hand, human activity within the region leads to overgrazing, expansion of agricultural areas and also deforestation.



Results of the survey

One important finding of the survey is that the great majority of the interviewees, almost 90 %, have migration experiences. Furthermore, the survey showed that internal or regional migration predominates. The majority of the people moves within their home countries, particularly to the greater cities and to the capitals Bamako and Dakar. International migration to Europe is very rare.

Furthermore, the great majority of respondents depend on agriculture – subsistence farming or livestock breeding. Environmental changes play a crucial role in the decision-making process on whether to migrate or to stay. Especially when people make a living through agriculture and when there are few options to find other sources of income people tend to migrate. People tend to migrate especially when they are highly dependent on agriculture and when there are few options to find other sources of income. The survey findings revealed that migration should be viewed as a livelihood strategy.

Next steps

Political strategies have to include different levels and areas of actions. Investing in education is extremely important to improve opportunities particularly for the youth. An integrated regional development is needed, which helps create income and employment opportunities not only within, but also outside the agricultural sector. In this context interlinkages between urban and regional development must be taken into account. Also, measures to protect the

environment such as reforestation programs are important. They are more likely to be successful when the local population participates in decision making and in the implementation of the programs.

What kind of positive contribution can migrants make within a world threatened by climate change?

Migration is a commonly practiced and well-established coping strategy to seasonality and changing rainfall patterns as it helps to diversify income and thus lower the dependence on agricultural productivity. Often - as a result of loss of harvests and yields - people move temporarily to urban areas in search of work. The income is then used to improve food security of their families at home. It is also frequently being used to invest in their communities, i. e. for the construction of basic infrastructure like electricity or water supply.

In your experience, how did people perceive climate change?

This was a key issue within the survey. The perceptions are very important because the respondents take their decisions based on their own interpretation of climate change. So when asked about the environmental changes they said that particularly the rainfall patterns are much more variable now.

People are very conscious about the impacts of climate change. And because of these increasing uncertainties they diversify their income strategies.

2 ...talking about REMITTANCES

Rural-urban migration is often perceived as rather negative for rural areas. However, it is also known that usually migrants do not cut ties with their regions and villages of origin. The transfer of remittances either from internal or from international migrants plays an important role for their families. Due to these payments households in rural areas are able to invest differently than they did before. This fact can change the living conditions in rural areas enormously, even for unrelated households.





Pedro de Vasconcelos, Manager, Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Building on his years of experience at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington DC and at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Pedro De Vasconcelos works currently as Programme Coordinator of the Financing Facility for Remittances at IFAD. He holds a Master's Degree in International Business and Management from the University of Paris IV, La Sorbonne.

2.1 Increasing economic opportunities for the rural population (IFAD)

The Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) Program of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) increases economic opportunities for the rural population through the support and development of innovative, cost-effective, and easily accessible international and/or domestic remittance services. The program has two main priority areas. On the one hand, the FFR launches competitive calls for proposals and co-finances innovative and sustainable projects which are selected on a competitive and demand-driven basis. This portfolio includes almost 50 projects in more than 40 countries across the whole world. The second financing mechanism of the FFR addresses larger programmes in cooperation with IFAD's regional divisions and partner organizations, and aims at scaling up successful projects financed under the initial calls for

proposals. This enables the facility to broaden both the scale of its interventions on the ground and maximize their impact.

The first International Forum on Remittances organised by IFAD was held in Washington in 2007 under the slogan "Sending Money Home: worldwide remittance flows to developing and transition countries". The event represents a unique platform to promote global awareness of migrant remittances and to highlight the immense impact of the money sent to developing countries. The forum usually attracts over 350 international participants, including experts and representatives from leading business groups, government regulators and the civil society with the aim to stimulate the debate on the reality of today's remittance markets and tomorrow's opportunities.

The main objective of the FFR Programm is to support projects and activities that:

- reduce the transfer costs of remittances
- develop institutional partnerships
- bank the unbanked rural population
- promote innovative remittance and financial services
- promote productive rural investment of migrants' capital in their countries of origin

Example: "Mobilising migrant resources towards agri-based cooperatives in the Philippines"

The project seeks to facilitate links between Philippine migrant associations in Italy and their hometowns in the Philippines to support agri-based cooperatives and other productive remittance-based activities and services. The Philippines have about eight million Filipinos overseas of which 58 % are considered contract workers. About 60 % are women, the majority of which hold vulnerable jobs. The impact on the family left behind is greater when the women are migrating compared to men. Migrants are interested in setting up cooperatives and businesses but do not have capacity to do so. A growing number of Filipino migrants in Italy are heavily indebted to financial institutions in Italy which charge an effective interest rate of up to 24 % per annum on loans. Project activities are: to launch a multi-media campaign for migrants in Italy and their families in the target area, to set up a migrant cooperative in Italy, to create agri-based enterprises in the Philippines, provide trainings on financial literacy, leadership and entrepreneurship in Italy and in the Philippines and to conduct a baseline study.

Do you see any potential for rural areas resulting from migrant movements and which are they?

It is not a question of potential – it is a lifeline. It is generally known that in 2013, 430 billion USD of remittances were sent to developing countries. Almost 160 billion USD of these remittances go to rural areas where they have the strongest impact. In the next five years one trillion dollars will go to rural areas in terms of remittances. IFAD is trying to channel this money into the formal financial sector, i.e. cash based business and financial institutions. Development potential lies in providing more options for migrants and families for the productive use of remittances.

But it is about what people are doing with this money – especially when there is no future atmosphere in rural areas. What do you think is going to happen with this money? How are migrants spending their money?

First of all, remittances are people's private money, so nobody can decide or influence how this money should be spent or invested. However, investments from remittances are happening, also in rural areas – data shows that 20 % of remittances are going to savings for an investment, part of which for agricultural investments in rural areas. In fact migrants, right now as we speak, invest four times more money in agriculture than the global aid invests in agriculture. It is a lot of money but it could be much more. More options are needed to invest back home and this is basically where it is lacking.





Claire Alexandre heads the Commercial and Strategy team for M-Pesa (money transfer service) within the Vodafone Group. More recently, she was a Senior Program Officer for Financial Services for the Poor, at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, leading their policy and regulatory strategy and programs.

2.2 Sending money home by mobile phones: The success story of M-Pesa

Originally developed by Vodafone, supported by the British Department for International Development, M-Pesa was launched in March 2007 by Safaricom in Kenya, where it is now actively used by more than 12 million customers. The South African company Vodacom, a Vodafone subsidiary with more than 55 million customers worldwide, offers M-Pesa in Tanzania since 2008 and launched it in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2012. The service is also available in other markets such as India, Egypt, Mozambique, Lesotho and Fiji.

What it means

The word “M-Pesa” is a combination of the letter “M” which stands for “Mobile” and the Swahili word “Pesa” which means “money”. This mobile money transfer service is a tool, which allows individuals to make financial transactions using mobile phone technology.

How does M-Pesa work?

M-Pesa enables people who have a mobile phone, but limited or no access to a bank account, to

send and receive money, buy airtime and pay their bills amongst other things. The service has no entry fee, monthly charge or minimum balance and is therefore accessible to any customer. Only an official form of identification is needed for the registration as an M-Pesa user. Customers deposit or withdraw funds through a network of retail outlets which plays a vibrant part of M-Pesa: in Kenya there are more than 80,000 such retailers. Other transactions are carried out directly from the customers’ phones whenever they need and wherever they are.

What was the idea behind M-Pesa in Kenya?

Nowadays most people on each continent have access to a mobile or they have their own device. In the same way as mobiles enable people to talk to each other or even text each other, they can now also send money to each other with M-Pesa. This is of great importance for rural-urban linkages, where families in the cities send money to their relatives in rural areas. Without mobile money, their only option is to send cash, travel to deliver it or handing it over to a bus driver. The first idea of the service was to find a



way to disburse micro-loans. This was the main objective of the first pilot. However, Vodafone and Safaricom soon observed that customers were mainly using the service not only to have access to funds and repay the loans but more frequently to send money to each other. So ultimately the service was designed around money transfer and marketed under the heading “Send Money Home”. A key application of M-Pesa is non face-to-face transactions where it competes very well with cash.

The importance of M-Pesa

About 2.7 billion people worldwide rely on cash, physical assets and informal services to manage their financial lives. M-Pesa allows customers to access financial services close to where they live and work and thereby holds the promise of addressing two major hurdles to financial inclusion: lack of proximity and high costs. M-Pesa now goes beyond basic money transfer.

In Kenya and Tanzania a growing number of businesses are disbursing salaries using M-Pesa. Microfinance institutions are also collecting their customers’ loan repayments through M-Pesa. International money remittances can now be sent directly onto the M-Pesa account of the receiver. And even within the country the transfer of money has been greatly simplified. Populations in rural areas of Kenya have access to M-Pesa and can receive financial support by their family members within Kenya or from abroad.

How is M-Pesa helping to empower people?

By providing individual accounts, in particular to women, people become empowered by deciding for themselves how, where and when to use their funds and transact. They can do transactions directly from their mobile phone, which guarantees their privacy. This is contributing to giving every individual more choice.



Dr. Elisenda Estruch, Economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As a member of the Economic and Social Development Department, Dr. Elisenda Estruch is involved in policy support and analytical work on rural labour and decent rural employment, with a focus on projects which aim at enhancing food and nutrition security and reducing rural poverty.

2.3 Reducing poverty through migration: How to foster the positive interlinkages between rural and urban areas (FAO)

Under the FAO's work programme to Reduce Rural Poverty, we acknowledge the role that migration and remittances play, and they are a component of our integrated approach for rural poverty reduction. Building on FAO's strong technical expertise and close relation with governments and agricultural stakeholders, FAO works to maximize positive impacts of migration, particularly in rural areas, fostering rural-urban linkages and advocating for better management of rural labour mobility and the productive use of remittances in agriculture and rural areas.

Remittances can make up for negative effects which are the consequence of loss of human capital and of agricultural labour, but this is no guaranteed outcome. Limited access to formal finance and credit is deemed as one of the major constraints to rural employment and small-scale enterprise development. Remittances therefore play a crucial, supplementary, role in providing liquidity to rural households.

Migration can also contribute to reduce unemployment and underemployment, for instance in the lean season through seasonal migration, as well as reducing demographic pressure and resource constraints. Migration and remittances can

also be drivers of social change. Increased female migration and control over resources by women who receive remittances can lead to important changes in gender power relations. In Mexico and in the Philippines, thanks to remittances, women were able to access decent employment opportunities, withdrawing from poorly paid and exploitative occupations, reducing the number of hours worked, and moving from unpaid subsistence agricultural work to running small business. The engagement of diaspora groups can also bring collective gains, improving public infrastructure and market linkages, as well as education, health and care services.

Migration decisions are complex and driven by a variety of factors, including poverty, food insecurity, inequality, poor income-generating opportunities and increased competition for scarce land and water resources. Most of these factors are linked to agriculture and living conditions in rural areas. Consequently, the root causes of migration are closely linked to FAO's mandate. FAO has a comparative advantage in exploring the linkages between migration and remittances, and agricultural and rural transformation, and in enhancing countries' capacities and promoting innovative mechanisms to leverage the potential

of migration and remittances to reduce poverty, improve food security and promote sustainable agriculture and rural development. Governments and agricultural line ministries in particular usually have limited awareness on these issues and weak capacity to effectively mitigate the risks associated with large migratory flow and to create the conditions for remittances to have a bigger impact on food production and rural development. Hence, FAO will expand its areas of work in collaboration with partners. For instance, FAO has recently joined the Global Migration Group and works closely with ILO. We also envisage strengthening the collaboration with IFAD on favouring innovative financial instruments to support the channelling of remittances towards productive activities in the agricultural sector and rural areas, especially for women and youth.

How does FAO address the issue of rural migration at policy level? What is FAO's position and in what fields do you work on it?

As part of FAO's policy support work, we pay increasing attention to rural mobility and migration – not only international but also internal migration, including seasonal agricultural migration. We look at migratory patterns from a dynamic perspective too, given that, as countries undergo processes of structural transformation, farming practices evolve and the opportunities in the rural economy diversify. We pay particular attention to understand what determines rural labour migration and mobility in a given context, with a view of reducing distress migration and support more gainful forms of migration and upwards economic mobility. We look as well at the labour and migration implications that rural investment programmes and changes in agricultural practices can have, such as by modifying the labour intensity and reducing capital constraints. We acknowledge as well that migration and natural resource management are closely interrelated, as

access to productive resources, such as land, can condition significantly migration decisions. In turn, remittances can be directed to investments in land, soil management and other productive assets.

Which subjects are particularly important for the FAO concerning rural migration and remittances?

Within FAO's integrated approach to poverty reduction, we are looking at migration in relation to the promotion of decent rural employment and improved access to social protection. We put particular attention to migration of rural youth, as they are more prone to move in the absence of gainful opportunities in rural areas. Hence, giving priority to the creation of employment and agro-entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for young people, can contribute not only to enhance food security and reduce rural poverty, but also to ease migratory pressures and reduce distress economic mobility.

Do you have any suggestions for governments to raise awareness regarding the problems and chances of migration?

Given the multisectoral nature of migration, strengthening policy coherence is important. As FAO, we often work with agricultural line ministries and rural institutions and we increasingly support multi-stakeholder platforms for policy of dialogue, which bring together agricultural and rural actors, including producers' organizations, and labour and social protection stakeholders, as well as representatives of gender issues and youth. As part of our efforts in migration, we also believe that migrants need to have a voice, as developmental actors. We also develop sound evidence and disseminate good practices about different types of interventions for a better management of rural migration.

3 ...talking about REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In rural development migration is mainly seen as rural-urban migration and perceived as a loss of people and especially work force from rural areas. However, it should not be forgotten that the potential for poverty reduction by migration, for example through remittances, skills and knowledge transfer is extremely high. Regional development can also profit from different migration effects.



Claudia Patricia Ghitis, Chairwoman of the German-Colombian friendship association and Association LADiversidad e.V., is from Colombia and has a degree in ecology and environmental technology. She has lived in Germany for 15 years and, as a member of German-Colombian friendship association “Deutsch-Kolumbianischer-Freundeskreis e.V.”, has organized a number of international projects to support her home country. She set up the association “LADiversidad e.V.” in 2014.

3.1 Example from the field: How agricultural innovations can affect the living conditions of a whole region

In Germany there are many migrants associations which contribute to improve the living conditions of the people in their countries of origin. Commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM, a joint operation of GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency) is promoting the development engagement of migrants associations, such as the project of Claudia Patricia Ghitis.

Since 1999 Claudia Patricia Ghitis has been an active member of the association “Friends of Germany and Columbia” (DKF e.V.). Within the association she implemented various different international projects. One of these projects is the “Agroindustrial pilot project for a sustainable cultivation of Papachina (*Colocasia esculenta*) in cooperation with mothers and family leaders of Afro-Columbian communities in Sabaletas – Buenaventura” which Claudia Patricia Ghitis coordinated in 2012. The project has the

objective to sustainably improve guaranteed incomes and peace in the city of Buenaventura at the Colombian Pacific coast. The project focuses on the cultivation and sale of the potato-like tubers Papachina. These tubers can be processed into flour or starch. Especially starch made out of Papachina is a good renewable alternative for expensive raw materials, which can be used for various industrial processes.

The participating women of Buenaventura are able to earn regular resources with the sale of Papachina and products made out of the tuber, which contributes to the food security in their communities. Meanwhile the women found a charitable women cooperative by which they even contribute to peacekeeping processes through job creation and practising of conflict resolution mechanisms in their producer groups in this fought-over region.

Through the project Papachina becomes an official subject of the Colombian agricultural research and Columbians export products.



What has changed since you started the empowerment process to help women to have access to market by your Papachina project?

The project started in order to find a way for the population of Buenaventura to get new perspectives and hope, because this region suffered of the violence of guerrillas and paramilitary groups. So the first aim was to support social conditions and show the population cooperative values like solidarity and team spirit. The discovery of the potential of Papachina tubers did the rest.

On the one hand it changed the whole living situation of the population of Buenaventura. On the other hand it was possible to create the pure seeds of Papachina which helped to also distribute the tubers in other regions. The pure seeds were produced by CIAT-CLAYUCA (International Center for Tropical Agriculture). CIAT-CLAYUCA helped to discover the high potential of the tubers by various investigations. Also it was discovered that the products of Papachina can be used instead of maize for the nutrition of animals.

At the moment Columbia is importing 80 % of their animal nutrition but that could be changed by cultivating Papachina.

Now that you have accomplished so much how can the politicians and development associations further supporting your project?

At the moment it is the case that the Papachina tuber has a great potential to change the situation of many Colombian communities. The pure seeds are already been produced and this is to be continued with the practical implementation in other regions. But the impulse towards a better infrastructure for a commercialisation is missing. This is the point where the politicians and development associations could assist by now. For example the construction of a machine, which transforms the Papachina tuber into flour, would be a great help to facilitate this process. Small projects like this one are not able for such constructions but if the regional interest is high enough to build such a machine, it can change the situation of food security for whole region.



Katrin Fischer, Deputy Chairwoman of the German Rural Youth League (BDL), studied agricultural marketing and management and currently works on the editing team for agricultural journal “dlz agrarmagazin” at Deutscher Landwirtschaftsverlag and additionally on a voluntary for the German

Federation of Rural Youth (BDL), where she serves both as regional chair for Bavaria and deputy national chair, dealing with the topics of regional development, agriculture and education.

3.2 The case of Germany: How the German rural youth takes part in the development of their regions

The German Rural Youth League (BDL) is the biggest youth association in rural areas in Germany. The aim of the association is to create perspectives for the rural youth so they can stay where they grew up. Around 100,000 young people between 16 and 35 years all over Germany are participating in this idea as members of the BDL.

Subjects of interest:

young farmers policy, young wine growers policy, policy for rural areas, youth policy, education, international relations

In general the current situation of young people in rural areas in Germany is sobering. To live in rural areas means to get over long distances because of a bad infrastructure network, to recognize that more and more people are leaving their home regions to find one's happiness

somewhere else and also to notice that the only people, who are staying, are much older than you. The BDL is engaged in various areas to change this development.

As the representation of interests of young people in rural areas of Germany the BDL wants to create and maintain better life prospects for young people in these areas. In this context regional development plays an important part. To BDL regional development is a question of how regions are changing and how everyone can actively shape these processes. The sensitization inside and outside the Youth League is a major goal, which is why the BDL is motivating young people in rural areas to participate in regional development processes to shape their common future.

One example is the new project of the BDL “jugend.macht.land” which will be implemented in 2015. Within this project the BDL calls to meet with the regional policy, economy and

administration on small actions which they try to fulfil together with engaged supporters. Their success can motivate others to follow this example and will show the engagement of the BDL for their regions.

What makes young Germans stay in rural areas?

Young people stay in rural areas because of their parents, their families, their friends and their environment. And they stay even if rural areas have bad infrastructures or poor internet connections.

For these young people policy makers have to do more, so that they have the same chances as young people in bigger cities. The BDL is fighting for rural areas. For example in the eastern part of Germany a lot of people are moving to the Southern Germany because they have no future in their home regions. Even if the land is cheap in their regions, why should they stay when everyone else is leaving? That is why we have to work closely with the politicians who make the decisions! Nobody can handle all these problems alone; we have to be one union who fight for the same goals.



PART FOUR:
OUTLOOK







To stay – or not to stay?

There were a lot of arguments in favour of leaving rural areas, but also reasons to stay.

The objective was to highlight the chances migration can bring to people living in rural areas as well as in cities. We took a look on different perspectives, reasons and opportunities that arise when women and men leave their rural home and move towards a city or a different region.

The task for politics is no longer to decide what to support: the rural areas or the urban areas.

As we said earlier: Rural development matters.

Regions matter, but also urbanization matters.

It's a trio. It is about supporting those who want to stay and those who want to leave and support and benefit from the interlinkages between those two worlds. It is a continuum that we have to focus on and offer solutions for.

It is true: cities and towns are hubs of prosperity—more than 80 % of global economic activity is produced in cities by just over half of the world's population. (GMR Report 2013)

However, urbanization by itself is no guarantee of success. Unregulated and poorly planned, rapid urbanization can lead to disproportionate increases in slums. At the same time, the challenge of poverty reduction, remains largely in rural areas and is concentrated in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

As the GMR points out, people are located along a continuous rural-urban spectrum, and large cities are not necessarily places where the urban poor are concentrated. Smaller towns matter greatly for urban poverty reduction and service delivery.

In the beginning we asked if migration is an issue that raises concerns among society and politics.

Should migration be promoted or prevented?

Can or even must politics have an influence on migration patterns and control its impacts?

With 75% of the world's poor residing in rural areas, the challenge of effective rural development remains daunting but achievable with complementary rural-urban development policies and actions.

However rural areas remain a huge challenge—one that underscores the importance of being vigilant regarding policies that aim to improve agricultural productivity; if successful, these policies can provide positive synergies for farm incomes and nonfarm employment.

It's also of high importance to close the gender gap in education. Educating woman can boost rural women's empowerment by increasing participation, agricultural production and incomes.

Christel Weller-Molongua, GIZ Head of Division Rural Development and Agriculture



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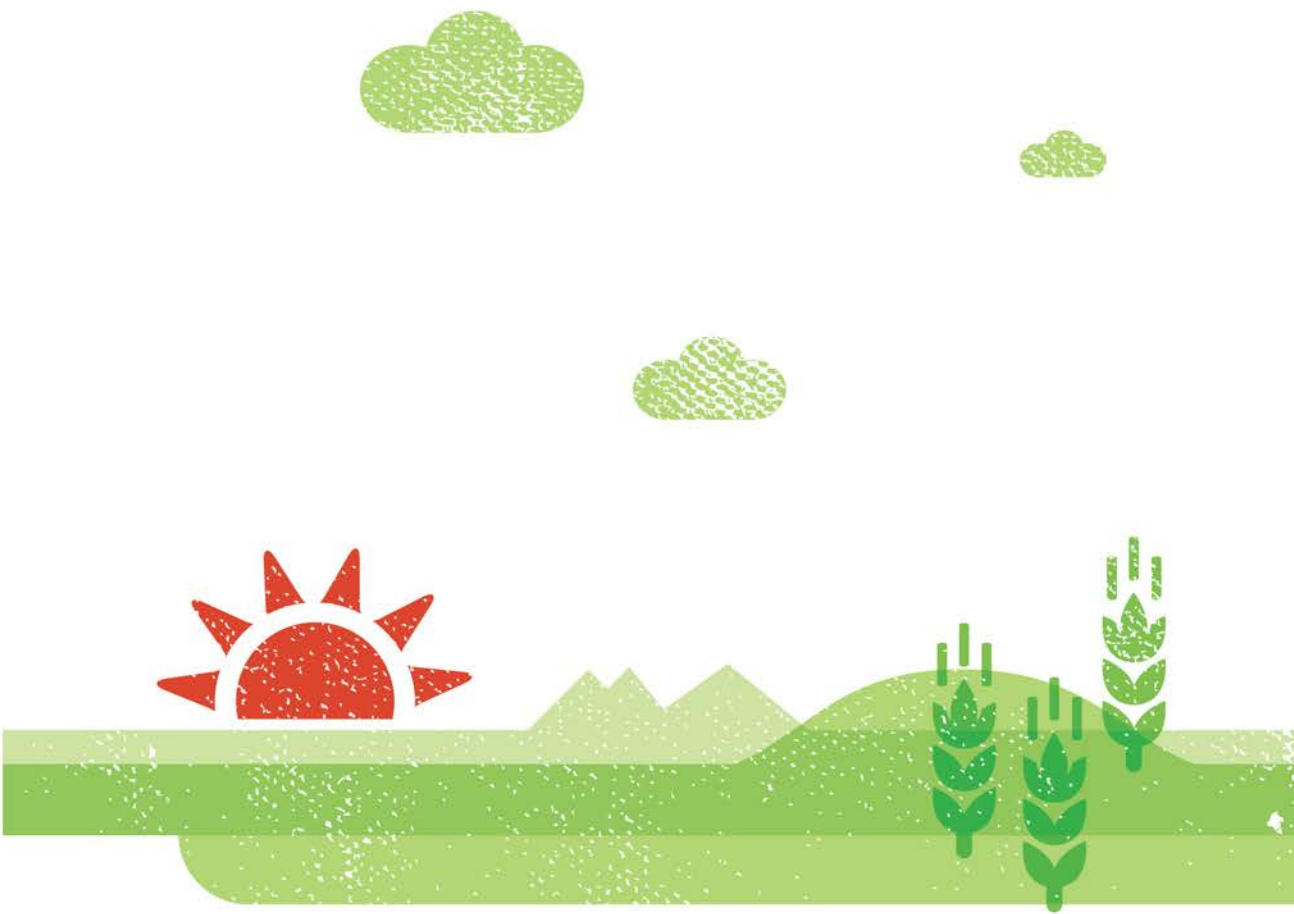
Links:


Migrating out of poverty RPC <http://migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk/>

GIZ Migration and Development: <http://www.giz.de/migrationdevelopment>

Geldtransfair.de (price comparison portal): <https://www.geldtransfair.de/>

ILO & FAO rural migration <http://www.fao-ilo.org/migration0/en/>





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