



Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition

Technical Workshop

22-23 February 2016 – Iraq Room, FAO

Draft Overview and Agenda

Objectives:

- Developing a shared understanding of the key issues related to urbanization and rural transformation with implications for food security and nutrition
- Narrowing down the key areas for CFS to focus on over the course of 2016-2017

Format:

Day One: A roundtable discussion including short overviews (5 minutes) and interventions on the range of issues involved in urbanization and rural transformation, with a focus on the key implications for food security and nutrition

Day Two: Small working groups tasked with reviewing and discussing the information from Day One and identifying the areas where CFS can add value

Expected Outputs:

- 1) An outline of the current research and implications for food security and nutrition and the policy related areas
- 2) Identified areas for CFS focus

Day One

9:00 – 9:20	Welcome and Introduction to CFS Workstream and Workshop Overview Deborah Fulton, CFS Secretary
	Part One: Gathering Evidence and Understanding Key Issues Format: Roundtable discussion with short opening interventions, moderated by CFS Secretariat
9:20 – 11:20	Rural-urban linkages - evidence from different regions According to the UN Population Fund, more than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, and by 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion ¹ . At the same time, the definition of what constitutes a 'town or city', or urban versus rural area, is changing and largely varies by region. The very way that urban and rural are defined and approached has significant implications for policymaking and food security and nutrition interventions.

¹ United Nations Population Fund, <http://www.unfpa.org/urbanization>

	<p>At the same time, addressing rural and urban issues in a more integrated and holistic way may better address the linkages and real development needs of both areas simultaneously. The drivers for urbanization and rural transformation and their resulting impacts on food security and nutrition also vary. Some aspects may carry across regions and countries and some others may be more region/country specific. Identifying the similarities and differing trends based on the latest statistics and evidence will help us to understand how far we can go at the global level in terms of identifying relevant policy interventions.</p>
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the drivers for urbanization and rural transformation differ in different regions? • What are the challenges in defining what constitutes <i>urban</i> and <i>rural</i> and the key policy implications? Where are the data gaps? • Can territorial approaches provide an effective framework to address the structural and emerging issues of food security and nutrition? What is the experience with these approaches in different regions? • What is the growing role of small towns/cities and the key implications for food security and nutrition in different regions?
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Rural-urban linkages – policymaking and governance challenges</p> <p>The actors and administrative units, at all levels of governance, and their various roles in food security and nutrition will need to evolve to address the continuum between rural and urban areas. In both rural and urban areas, there are often many actors – both state and non-state, private sector and grassroots organizations alike- who are involved in providing services and safety nets, which may support better food security and nutrition. Policies and regulations that support mutually supportive efforts of different actors at various levels of governance will be key elements in achieving food security and nutrition. This applies as well to service provision and the interconnected reliance between rural and urban areas for access to resources and services related to water, health, education, labour, etc. Gaps in service provision reinforce – in rural or urban areas – can present serious implications for achieving food security and nutrition.</p>
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are the relevant actors and administrative units involved in the area of food security and nutrition and with what jurisdiction? • How can urban and rural actors be better linked to encourage cross-sectoral and inclusive governance/policy making to address food insecurity and malnutrition and the right to adequate food? • What are the key elements to be included in regulatory frameworks that will ensure that food security and nutrition issues are addressed in the context of urbanization and rural transformation? • How are issues of social justice and human rights related to food and nutrition being addressed in rural and urban areas? What are the differences?
LUNCH BREAK	
Part Two: Delving into the Details of Evolving Food Systems	
Format: Roundtable discussion with short opening interventions, moderated by CFS Secretariat?	
14:00 – 17:00	<p>Food systems have evolved rapidly over the last two decades driven by several interlinked transformations including urbanization, agrifood market changes, changes in consumer purchasing and food preparation, changes in technology and mobility, among others. Changes in consumption can be a result of higher incomes – in both</p>

	<p>urban and rural areas – but also a result of trade and access to more affordable food, which may not always mean higher quality of food. At the same time, the flow of goods between rural and urban centers means that the lines between net food producers and net buyers are more blurred. These changing dynamics include challenges and opportunities related to food safety, nutrition, environmental hazards, and natural resource use. This session will aim to build on the morning discussion by going into detail into the various food security and nutrition issues presented by urbanization and rural transformation on both the consumption and production side.</p>
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can local food systems contribute to meet rising urban demand? What is the role of trade at the local, national, and international level? • How are vulnerable groups affected differently in urban and rural areas? What are the particular as well as interrelated challenges? • What are the drivers and linkages between changing diets in rural and urban areas and what are the related nutrition, food safety and environmental implications? • How does climate change and the growing prevalence of natural hazards influence evolving food systems and how can both rural and urban areas become more resilient? • What is the role of informal markets and what challenges and opportunities do they present for food security and nutrition? • What are the labour impacts of changing rural-urban linkages, particularly in secondary or smaller cities and towns? What are the mobility, migration, and remittance challenges? • What is the relationship between the role of rural non-farm employment and households with higher food security and nutrition? • What natural resource challenges are presented by evolving food systems? How does climate change exacerbate these issues? How is sustainability being addressed in urbanization and rural transformation?
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Summary of Discussions from Day One Deborah Fulton, CFS Secretary</p>

Day Two

Part Three: Defining the Areas for CFS Focus Format: Working Groups	
9:00 – 12:30	<p>Based on the research and initiatives presented during Day One, determine what the most pressing/least addressed issues in terms of food security and nutrition for policy attention are at the global level that CFS should focus on.</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the current/changing trends and how do they impact or result in a need for changing or new policies for food security and nutrition? 2) Where has the focus of the research/initiatives been to date? Bulkied in one area or another? 3) Where are there gaps and why? 4) How can we build on other initiatives and outcomes? 5) How can CFS add value within its mandate as a global policy convergence body for food security and nutrition?
LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Reporting back from working groups and discussion Working Group rapporteurs</p>
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Closing and summary Deborah Fulton, CFS Secretary</p>

Background resources

Rural-urban linkages - evidence from different regions

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[UNHABITAT.2015. Habitat III Issue Papers 10, Urban-Rural Linkages](#)

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High Level Committee on Programmes: Twenty-Ninth Session. Agenda Item 1: Urbanization and Sustainable Development, Towards a New United Nations Urban Agenda.

IIED. 2015. Reframing the debate on urbanization, rural transformation and food security, IIED briefing paper, <http://pubs.iied.org/17281IIED.html>

IFAD.2015. Post-2015 Policy Brief 1: Leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development, <http://www.ifad.org/pub/post2015/english/1.pdf>

OECD.2013. Rural-Urban Partnerships. An Integrated Approach to Economic Development. OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264204812-en>

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[John B. Kaneene , Steven Haggblade , David L Tschirley , \(2015\) "Special issue introduction: Sub-Saharan Africa's agri-food system in transition", Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies, Vol. 5 Iss: 2, pp.94 - 101](#)

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UNCRD.2016. Inclusive economic development and investment, markets, infrastructure and finance in rural and urban areas – Examples from Africa, *Regional Development Dialogue*, Vol.35

[GFFA Communiqué – 8th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit 2016 16 January 2016: How to feed our cities? – Agriculture and rural areas in an era of urbanisation](#)