

# Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Policies

*A Joint FAO-OECD-UNCDF Initiative*

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# Food Insecurity and Rural Poverty

❖ We produce enough food in the world to feed everyone yet  
**805 million people are hungry**

❖ More than 75% of the world's extreme poor and food insecure live in rural areas, most depending on agriculture and living in lagging regions

❖ Rural development is good for pro-poor, nationwide economic growth and food security

❖ Rural economic diversification and investing in people are critical



# **"Geography matters" for FSN**

## **More global but a lot remains local:**

- ❖ 75% of global production still sold in local markets in the area of production

## **Food insecurity and rural poverty gaps have strong territorial correlation**

- ❖ Smallholder farmers in developing countries occupy 80% of arable land and produce most of the world's food
- ❖ Access to land, infrastructure, markets are strongly territory bound
- ❖ Exposure to risks and environmental threats defined by local conditions

## **Territorial and social inequalities are closely linked**

## **Sustainable management of natural resources needs to be addressed in given territorial context**

## **Local institutions matter**

- ❖ Do markets work locally?
- ❖ Producer organizations work locally

## **Private investment is geographically biased, and so are public investments and incentive schemes**

# Geographical divides of FSN: some examples

## South Africa:

- Self-sufficient at the national level (availability), 64% of households are food insecure (access)
- FNS strong spatial dimension: most food insecure live in some provinces, while small percentages in the Metros

## Latin America and Caribbean:

- At national level, Guatemala and Honduras are not on track in reducing hunger; Peru and Bolivia are on track, but in all there are large local and regional disparities
- Argentina and Brazil net exporters, but strong within country disparities in FNS
- In all countries: nutritional vulnerability higher in rural areas

## Vietnam:

Food insecurity associated with ethnic minorities living in remote rural areas (60% of undernourished)

## Ghana:

Food insecurity affects 5% of the population (on average), 34% in the Upper West region

# The need for a paradigm shift in FSN and rural development policies

1. **Multidimensional and integral approach** to food security and rural development
2. **Territorial approach** should be critical part of the broader framework in redressing:
  - ❖ off-farm employment opportunities
  - ❖ better social protection can help the poor better manage and cope with increased volatility of markets and weather vagaries
  - ❖ Strengthened local governance and institutions (including producer organizations) to empower people and ensure inclusion in decision making processes
  - ❖ improved infrastructure and rural services to improve market access
  - ❖ more equitable access to land and sustainable natural resource management for long-term and sustainable rural development



# Conclusions

❖Need for a paradigm shift:

**multi-sectoral interventions for rural poverty reduction and ending hunger**

❖FAO is committed to apply a **territorial** and **integrated rural development approach** to reducing rural poverty and ending hunger and support countries in:

- diagnosing the potential of developing new activities within a defined area and given constraints posed by the capital endowment of these areas
- overcoming bottlenecks to unleash and strengthen linkages within the rural economy

❖It is about making rural areas and local economies self-sufficient, but about dynamic diversification and linking local economies (whether rural, urban, or globally)

# Joint FAO-OECD-UNCDF Initiative

- ❖ Synergies detected among independent streams of work
- ❖ Combine efforts based on comparative strengths:
  - OECD → knowledge generation, New Rural Paradigm, territorial/rural policy reviews and dialogue
  - UNCDF → local governance, local public financial management, policy dialogue and advocacy)
  - FAO → national networks in the area of FNS and rural poverty, information, methodologies and capacity development for FNS