DRAFT OUTLINE

**The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2018:**

**Rural migration, agriculture and rural development**

**Ch. 1 Introduction**

*This chapter lays out the rationale for the report and the framework for the analysis to be presented.*

1.1 Why a SOFA report on migration?

The section will present the underlying rationale behind the report. There is growing international attention to migration. Migration is increasingly perceived as a major challenge to food security as well as to peace and stability. Migratory flows may affect agricultural production and access to food both in rural and urban areas. Much of the focus is on international migration, but migration between countries is part of a bigger picture that includes both international (either intraregional or interregional) and domestic migration flows. Migration to, from and between rural areas (rural migration) is an important component of migration flows. Rural migration is closely linked with agricultural and rural development in a bidirectional relationship: agricultural and rural development affects migration and are affected by migration. However, knowledge of the exact relationship between them is limited due to relative scarcity both of statistical data and empirical analysis. The report will review the evidence on drivers and impacts of rural migration, analyzing the bi-directional linkages between rural migration flows on the one hand and agricultural and rural development on the other.

1.2 What is migration and rural migration?

The section will present the definition of migration and the types of migration that will be considered by the report. The report will adopt the definition of migration and of migrants used by the International Organization for Migration. The report will cover any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes. This includes both international migration and internal migration as well as permanent, protracted and temporary migration, including seasonal migration. The focus of the report is rural migration, which is understood as migration that takes place from and to (including between) rural areas, independently of the destination or origin and of the duration of the migratory movement.

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| **BOX - Definition of migration by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**The International Organization for Migration adopts the following definitions of migration and migrants.* **Migration** - The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.
* **Migrant** - IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.

Source: <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms> |



1.3 Complexity and heterogeneity of rural migration flows

The section will underline and explain the heterogeneity of the migration phenomenon and the complexity of migration decisions. The definition of migration comprises many different types of migration, including internal, international, permanent, temporary – seasonal migration in particular is common phenomenon in rural areas. The section will discuss in more detail the relevance of various categories for rural migration. Also migration decisions are complex and various. People migrate for a number of different reasons in a number of different circumstances. Often the reasons behind migration decisions cannot be limited to one factor but depend on the interaction of different factors acting in different conditions. People will consider push and pull factors at different locations before making migration decisions. This process considers migration as a decision based on free will and initiative. Migration decisions can be made at the individual level or collectively, e.g. by households. On the other hand, migration might not be the result of deliberate choice: the International Organization for Migration defines forced migration as “a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects)”. (<https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>). This seems to imply a sort of dichotomy between forced migration on the one side and what could be termed voluntary migration on the other. In reality migration decisions are complex and are better viewed as lying along a spectrum, where elements of choice and coercion might co-mingle. For instance, when livelihoods are threatened by slow-onset events such as climate change and environmental degradation, the distinction between forced and voluntary migration may not be clear-cut.

1.4 Rural migration in the context of economic development

The section will briefly put rural migration into the context of broader changes in economies, societies and rural areas. Migratory flows from rural areas are a normal feature of the process of development and structural transformation of economies. The movement of people within and between countries is an integral part of successful agricultural and rural development and of structural changes in the economy. Migration flows themselves also affect rural areas in various ways – e.g. labour market effects, impact of remittances, transfer of social norms and know-how for different activities, including agricultural. Impacts may be either positive or negative. The speed and magnitude of migration, as well as the conditions in which it occurs, depends on conditions both in areas of outmigration and areas on in-migration, different sectoral policies, as well as the management of migratory flows. The Sustainable Development Goals include the requirement to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants calls for the development of two global compacts, on safe, orderly and regular migration and on refugees. The section will conclude by discussing the relevance of these concepts for rural migration.

1.5 What is the scope of the report?

The section describes the scope of the report. The report will analyse rural migration flows as well as their determinants and impacts. It will look at the factors in rural areas, and more specifically in agriculture, which contribute to determining migration decisions. More broadly it will analyse the relationship between agricultural and rural development and migration decisions. The report will also look at the ways in which migration affects rural areas and agricultural and rural development. Key issues to be addressed include: i) how can agriculture and rural development contribute to facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people?; ii) how will migration affect livelihoods in rural areas both in terms of constraints, such as labor shortages, and opportunities, through remittances to sending households?

**Ch. 2 Trends in rural migration**

*This chapter provides an empirical overview of trends in rural migration*

2.1 Long-term trends in rural migration

The section will put rural migration into a historical context by looking at long-term trends in rural versus urban population. The movement of people within and between countries is an integral part of successful agricultural and rural development and of structural changes in the economy in which the relative role of agriculture in terms of income generation and employment gradually declines. To illustrate this process, the section will look at long-term trends in agricultural employment as well as rural and urban populations. It will present and discuss data series on, rural and agricultural populations and on agricultural employment for country groupings – geographic and economic groupings - based on available data from 1961 in FAOSTAT. It will also present any relevant and significant longer-term data series available for specific countries from other sources. In a forward-looking perspective it will discuss the implications of future population growth projections for rural migration.

2.2 Current trends and patterns in rural migration at the macro level

This section will look at more recent trends and patterns in migration to and from rural areas in different countries and country groupings based on macro-level evidence from different sources. It will cover different types of rural migration to capture the complexity of migration patterns, including migration associated with protracted crises and environmental factors. Among other things, it will analyze in more depth what data from FAOSTAT allows us to say about recent and current patterns of change in agricultural labour force and rural populations and draw implications – to the extent possible - in terms of patterns of migration. In addition it will provide an overview of relevant international and national sources providing information on rural migration flows internationally and in specific countries. Major data gaps will be identified and discussed.

2.3 Micro-level evidence on patterns of rural migration

To complement the macro-level evidence in the section above, this section will provide a overview of evidence on patterns of rural migration that can be derived from micro-level sources. This includes evidence at sub-national level – e.g. specific geographic areas - for individual countries as well as evidence found at community or household level from specific studies. Patterns of migration will include characteristics of migration – e.g. permanent, protracted, temporary – as well as characteristics of migrants – e.g. gender and age - and their households. As for the macro data in section 2.2, also migration associated with protracted crises as well as environmental factors will be covered. Case studies will be presented illustrating different examples of rural migration patterns. The relevance of the information for informing the debate on migration will be discussed along with major data gaps.

**Ch. 3 Drivers of rural migration**

*This chapter will provide a theoretical and empirical overview of drivers of rural migration*

3.1 Theories of migration and rural migration

The section will present a short overview of theoretical models of the determinants of migration and discuss their relevance for explaining and analyzing rural migration. Specifically the possible links with agriculture – inter alia through agricultural household models – will be discussed. Relevant migration models include neoclassical migration theory, new economics of migration theory and Lee’s push-pull model. The latter explains migration as the result of a decision by individuals or families that depends on: the characteristics of both the origin and destination of migration – described through push and pull factors; the nature of intervening obstacles (e.g. cost of migration, borders etc); and the nature or characteristics of the people who make the migration decision.

3.2 Drivers of rural migration

The section will discuss in more detail the potential drivers of rural migration. The drivers of migration interact in complex ways. Some drivers primarily influence migration decision-making in areas of origin (such as environmental and demographic pressures; lack of employment and livelihood opportunities; absence of fundamental human rights poor/inadequate governance and security). Others are more associated with sites of destination (such as the attraction of employment and education opportunities, family unification, and the prospect of a safer, more dignified and productive life), as well as relative income differences between areas of origin and destination. Some drivers operate at the individual or household scale; others at the city, sub-state, national or regional scale (such as environmental degradation and instability). Some drivers are acute and involve crises, while others unfold more slowly (such as demographic, environmental and climate change). Some drivers run deep (including cultural and social drivers, the attraction of an existing diaspora, as well as governance and political factors), while others are more easily influenced by punctual policy choices and programming interventions.

3.3 Evidence on drivers of rural migration – push and pull factors in rural areas

The section will focus more specifically on drivers in rural areas. It will review empirical evidence on the determinants of rural migration in terms of characteristics of rural areas - i.e. push and pull factors at work in rural areas. The role of agriculture and agricultural development for these factors will be given particular emphasis. Potentially important push factors in rural areas that are likely to affect migration decisions include: poverty, food insecurity, lack of employment, natural resource constraints and environmental degradation, poor land productivity, climate-related events, conflicts, remoteness, weak capital markets. At the same time improvements in these factors at the place of origin can turn them from push factors into pull factors, reducing or reversing migration or attracting migration from other rural areas. Particular emphasis will be put on linking push and pull factors to agriculture and agricultural development.

3.4 Evidence on drivers of rural migration – characteristics of migrants

The section will review empirical evidence on the drivers of rural migration, focusing on the characteristics of migrants and their households. This includes dimension such as gender, age, education levels, income levels, employment patterns (in particular engagement in agricultural activities) and access to social protection and health-care services. An important driver of migration is the possibility of risk-sharing between the household and the migrant, A household can decide to send a migrant far enough such that the probability of facing a negative income shock at the same time, for the remaining HH and for the migrant, is low.

**Ch. 4 Impacts of migration on rural communities and agricultural development**

*The chapter will analyze how rural areas and agriculture are affected by migration, both positively and negatively. It will discuss the effects of migration on rural areas, agriculture and households through direct and indirect labour market and other effects. It will also address the potential of migrants for supporting rural areas and promoting agricultural and rural development in their communities and countries of origin through remittances and other means.*

4.1 Migration and rural labour markets

The section will highlight how outmigration – whether permanent, protracted or seasonal - affects labour supply, the skill mix and the demographic composition of the remaining population. It will focus on labour market impacts, including labour allocation and impacts. It will also discuss the effects of losing the younger part of the labour force and, depending on the context, the increasing proportion and role of women in rural areas and the agricultural sector. A distinction will be made between direct impacts when a household member leaves, making less labour available, and indirect impacts such as changes in wages in the local community and labour market and changes towards less labour intensive farm practices. In the longer run, remittances may allow farm households to hire labour or invest in more productive farm practices or rural non-farm activities.

4.2 Effects of migration on rural livelihoods

The section will discuss other direct effects – positive or negative – on agricultural and rural livelihoods. This includes impacts in terms of income, diversification of livelihoods, nutrition, food security and human capital. Also impacts in terms of natural resource management will be covered. A particular issue for discussion is the impact of remittances on agricultural investments and agricultural productivity. The discussion will include the mechanisms through which migration affects the outcomes – e.g. via reducing liquidity constraints to investment and use of modern inputs.

4.3 The role of migrant communities and remittances for agricultural and rural development

The section will focus on the role of migrants (whether international or internal) and migrant communities in promoting agricultural and rural development. It will review evidence available on remittances to rural areas as well as their impacts in terms of agricultural and rural development. Also other impacts of diaspora communities on their communities of origin will be discussed. This includes the importance of networks of migrants and rural communities. Positive experiences in terms of linkages between migrant communities and their communities of origin fostering or contributing to rural and agricultural development – e.g. through flows of cash or goods, and transfer of social norms and know-how – will be highlighted.

4.4 The role of remittances in protracted crisis contexts

The section will focus on the specific role of remittances in situations of protracted crisis. Populations in protracted crises are often dependent on remittances from family members and relatives. The section will describe the importance of remittances for maintaining food and nutrition security, sustaining livelihoods and building resilience both among displaced people and those left behind. It will discuss the importance of lowering remittance costs in order to increase their effectiveness in this regard.

**Ch. 5 Protracted crises and rural migration**

*The chapter will discuss in more detail the specific evidence on the relationship between rural migration and protracted crises, comprising conflicts as well as environmental and natural resource related crises (including natural disasters). The chapter will also provide a discussion of the actual and possible future impact of climate change on rural migration.*

5.1 Protracted crises – a growing threat

The section will discuss the increasing trend in the incidence of crises worldwide and how they may affect migration flows. Conflict, violence, human rights abuses as well as extreme events have a direct impact on population movements. Environmental degradation and the adverse impact of climate change, compounded with other factors may also be drivers of slower-paced movements. Preexisting fragilities, climate change impacts, competition for natural resources and resource depletion may increase conflicts and stressors, causing forced displacement.

At the same time migration can also cause environmental damage by depleting resources. Protracted crises pose particular challenges as they are driven by a combination of recurring human-induced causes and natural hazards.

5.2 Protracted crises and rural migration

The section will present empirical evidence on levels and patterns of rural migration associated with protracted crises. In most protracted crisis situations, the majority of the population still lives in rural areas and makes their living from activities related to agriculture. The section will present an overview of statistical evidence on rural migration associated with protracted crises as well as the different types of migratory movements associated with crises – including refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees. The section will also look at the relative importance of different aspects of crisis underlying migration and their relative importance. The evidence presented will include both macro-level and micro-level evidence.

5.3 Addressing the impact of crises and fostering preventive measures

The section will present evidence on experiences in terms of addressing the impacts of crises on agriculture and food security and of building resilience of both displaced and host communities as well as those who do not flee. Rural families are the most affected by conflict and disasters, but people with resilient livelihoods are better able to prevent, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of conflicts, crises and disasters on their lives. The section will present concrete evidence on successful efforts to ensure, promote and diversify agricultural livelihoods to strengthen resilience and self-reliance and find durable solutions to displacement, particularly when protracted (considering also the impact migration has on host communities). However, migration itself is a means of “spatial diversification” for agricultural households. It will also look at other interventions that foster resilience, self-reliance and social cohesion of displaced and host populations, such as effective social protection, improvements in land tenure, access to natural resources and the fostering of employment opportunities as means of ensuring that people can stay on their land, when it is safe for them to do so, creating conditions for safe return of refugees, migrants and displaced people. Discussions will include both immediate and longer-term solutions, and point to recommendations around better articulating links between humanitarian and development actors.

5.4 Slow-onset crises, climate change and rural migration

The section will discuss more in detail the relationship between slow-onset environmental and natural resource crises as drivers of migration. It will have a special focus on the relationship between climate change and rural migration. Migration can be induced by climate change and its impacts on livelihoods, but it can also be seen as (part of) an adaptation strategy to climate change in rural areas. Temporary, seasonal and permanent migration can be a form of livelihood diversification that allows rural households to deal with the negative impacts of climate change on farm activities. The section will review evidence allowing to assess the current and possible future impact of climate change on migratory patterns through its impact on the agriculture sectors.

**Ch. 6 The way forward – implications for policy**

*The final chapter will draw out the main implications of the analysis and discussion of the previous chapters of relevance for policymakers in terms of ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration.*

6.1 The nexus between migration, agriculture and rural development

The section will focus on the relationship between rural migration and agricultural and rural development policies. Rural migration is an integral part of successful economic development and structural transformation of economies. Safe, orderly and regular migration depends on agricultural and rural development as well as other factors beyond the rural economy. Agricultural and rural development policies affect the drivers of migration. The section will bring out the state of knowledge of the relationship between migration and agricultural and rural development, as it emerges from the previous chapters, and the implications for policy makers in view of their own policy objectives with regard to migration However, it will also highlight the major gap in the evidence on the impacts of agricultural and rural development polices on migration that still exists.

6.2 Sectoral policies and rural migration

The section will discuss in more detail specific sectoral policies that may be conducive to safe and orderly migration and migration decisions. This includes policies to provide employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, policies for better management of seasonal migration, natural resource management and tenure policies, and social protection.

6.3 Building resilience

The section will address the issue of how to build resilience both in rural communities and among displaced people and host communities in protracted crises and the implications for migration and migratory patterns.

6.4 Harnessing the development potential of migration for agricultural and rural development

The section will address the issue of how to exploit the development potential of migration and migrants to promote agricultural and rural development. It will look at policies to take advantage of migrant networks to the benefit of agricultural and rural development and to favour diaspora investments. It will also discuss how to support returnees to reintegrate in rural economies and communities. It will address the issue of lowering the costs of migration and of sending remittances, which often prevent poor households from engaging in migration.

6.5 Policy coherence and collaboration for safe, orderly and regular rural migration

The section will underline the importance of policy coherence and collaboration between entities involved in agricultural and rural development and entities and stakeholders engaged in migration and labour market issues. Due to the complexity of rural migration and rural migration decisions it is important to ensure coherence of policies and actions addressing agricultural and rural development and other policies aimed at ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration.