



Technical workshop on

The drivers and impacts of migration and labor mobility in origins and destinations:
Building the evidence base for policies that promote safe, orderly and regular people's and labor mobility for poverty reduction and sustainable development

Objectives

1. Understand the diverse patterns, drivers and impacts of migration and labor mobility to address challenges for achieving sustainable livelihoods transformation, food security and nutrition and poverty reduction.
2. Promote multisector policy approaches to the development of rural areas and rural-urban linkages to facilitate rural transformation and agricultural and food systems' transitions for economies and societies at large.

There were 244 million international migrants on 2015, representing 3.3 per cent of the global population this year. An additional 740 million people or 10.4 per cent of global population, were internal migrants in 2013. Crises, shocks, lack of resources and opportunities resulting in high rates of local unemployment and underemployment are the root causes of internal or international voluntary or distress migration. Pervasive risks and localized or widespread crises, conflicts and shocks; widespread poverty; lack of or poor access to sanitation, health facilities, education services and clean water; differences in wages between sectors, rural and urban areas or among countries; cash constraints, risk sharing and income diversification, make people to migrate temporarily or for their lifetime. Available jobs in rural areas, and in the agricultural sector in particular, are associated with low and volatile incomes, poor occupational safety and health conditions, gender inequality in pay and opportunities and limited access to social protection and safety nets. People involved in agriculture most often lack secure access to land, physical capital and financial services. For youth in rural areas such constraints are more severe than any other group.

Internal or international migrants are usually a vibrant, dynamic, younger and sometimes well-educated and wealthier part of the origin societies looking for better opportunities for themselves and their families. The structural transformation of economies including the agricultural and food system transition coincides with mobility of such segments of labor force across sectors and geographic territories as well as the transition of youth from school to employment. In developing countries, migration coincides with exit from agriculture across generations and movements to rural cities or urban areas, in the services and manufacturing or industries sectors. The process of migration, internal or external, despite the aspirations and hopes for better opportunities and welfare improvements entails significant economic and social costs for themselves, their families and local societies in the origin areas. Adaptation and adjustment challenges related especially with search and switching of occupations, are no easier to face and cope when migrants arrive to their destinations adding to costs of migration. Additional economic and social challenges emerge when populations in destinations countries perceive migrants as competition for jobs and as threat for the level of the wages earned. Evidence indicates that this perception can be actually true for low skill activities and jobs.

In the next decades, demographic pressures and urbanization trends, persistent poverty, climatic threats and increasing competition for natural resources are expected to exacerbate distress or voluntary migration flows across regions and countries. This is likely to further fuel loss of human capital and highly skilled workers and agricultural labour, which may affect crop production and food availability. Populations remaining, in origin and especially in rural areas are expected to be older and less dynamic. The proportion of females in rural populations will likely increase, as males tend to



migrate more than females and the burden of work to those left behind will also increase. Moreover, additional pressures will be imposed to urban areas and the food and agricultural systems that need to adjust on the provision of services and supply efficiently their populations. Remittance receipts are expected affect land use, titling and investments but also enable the conversion of agricultural land to land for housing. Policies and frameworks at national and international levels need to manage the labor transition and migration flows so that they are smooth, match skills and capacity needs and avoid losses emerging from informality.

Technical workshop

FAO is developing a programme of work that will provide evidence on the diversity of pathways, the drivers and the impacts of distress or voluntary migration, labor and people's mobility in a context of accelerated urbanization and increased pressure on natural resources. The program gives importance to the role of policies, governance and institutions in steering change processes in origins and reducing challenges in destination areas. Evidence from this programme of work will feed into FAO's normative work and policy support to countries and multistakeholder governance platforms in promoting sustainable development, food security and nutrition. The program will provide background material and support the Global Migration Group negotiations to develop a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In the context of the program, FAO invites the submission of papers to be presented on a technical workshop on:

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Building the evidence base for policies that promote safe, orderly and regular people's and labor mobility for poverty reduction and sustainable development”

The workshop will be held the 1st of December 2017, at FAO headquarters in Rome. The workshop will bring together researchers and policy makers from around the world in an effort to provide evidence, promote understanding, enhance dialogue on migration, labor and people's mobility for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Relevant areas of work refer to micro and macro research including:

- Demographic and social dynamics, urbanization processes and migratory patterns;
- The role of shocks, conflicts, climate change and risk-coping mechanisms (or absence thereof);
- Migration and labor mobility for structural, rural and agrarian transformations;
- Social and economic impacts and contributions of migrants in origins and destinations;
- Challenges and potential in rural origins and agricultural and food systems for job creation;
- Patterns of farm and non-farm income and employment diversification;
- The role of land tenure patterns and land distribution;
- Migration and territorial, urban planning and agriculture and food systems challenges;
- The role of natural resource endowment and water availability and their governance systems;
- Agricultural productivity and the role of capital, technology innovation, adaptation and diffusion;
- The role of infrastructure, market access, rural-urban linkages and territorial development.

Papers presented at the workshop will be published in FAO's working paper series, as well as in book form as proceedings of the workshop.



Submission Instructions

Extended abstracts (of length 3-5 pages) explaining the core question(s), data and methods used, and (anticipated) findings or complete papers should be submitted by email to rural-transformation@fao.org before September 29, 2017. Acceptance decisions will be communicated within three weeks of the submission deadline. Traveling and accommodation costs will be covered by FAO. For more information, please contact rural-transformation@fao.org

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mobility for poverty reduction and sustainable development**

Friday 1st December 2017

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters
Rome, Italy

Friday 1 December
08.30-09.00 Registration
09:00-09:15 Opening remarks
09:15-10:30 Keynote speech
10:30-11:00 Coffee break
11:00-12:30 Parallel Sessions 1
12:30-13:30 Lunch
13:30-15:00 Parallel Sessions 2
15:00-15:30 Coffee break
15:30-17:00 Panel discussion
17:00-17:30 Closing remarks