

Ecologic Institute

Science and Policy
for a Sustainable World



Strengthening rural-urban linkages

**Plenary session at the European Resource Forum:
Resource efficient land use within the rural urban nexus**

Berlin, 10 November 2016
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RuralUrbanNexus

Gobal nachhaltige Landnutzung und Urbanisierung

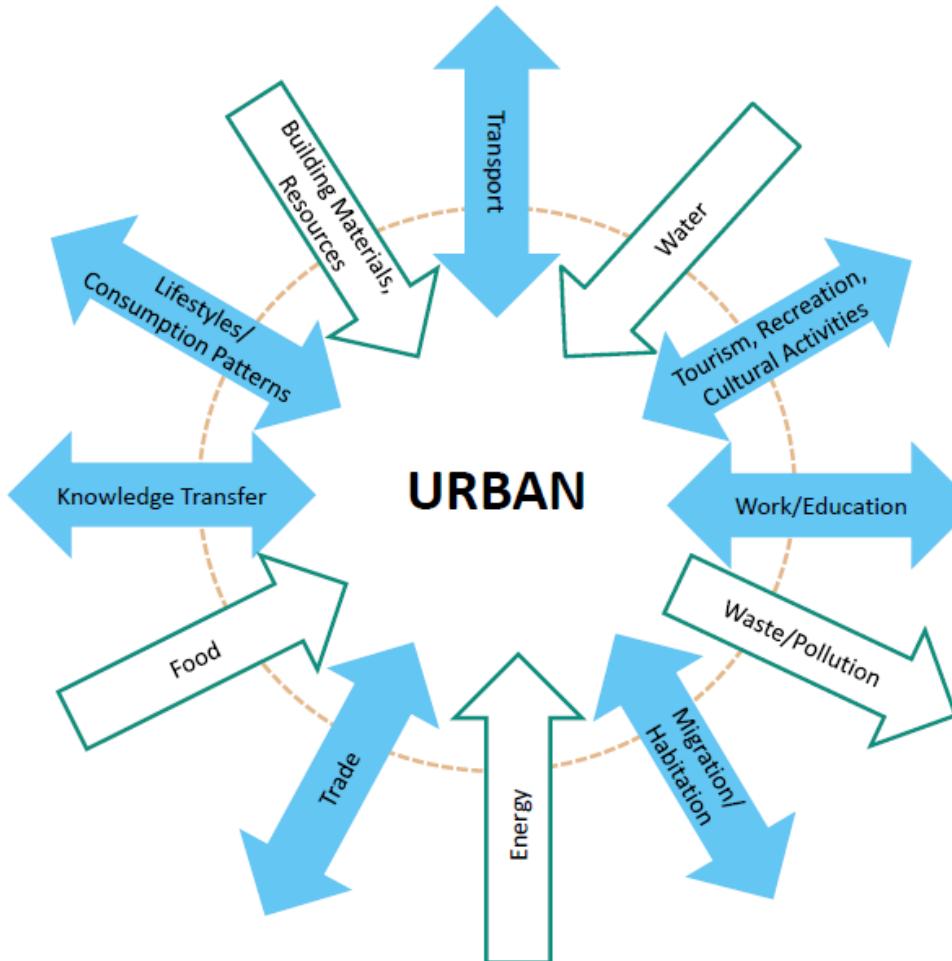
<http://www.rural-urban-nexus.org/>

Building on research in several projects, e.g.

- Rural Urban Nexus – Global sustainable Land Use and Urbanisation
- Globalands – Global Sustainable Land Use



www.globalands.org



Urban areas and their rural “Hinterland” have always been linked but the interaction is changing

Population growth, Migration from rural areas: urbanisation & path dependencies

blurring boundaries: ICT, globalisation and mobility change work/life patterns and interaction urban – rural/resource flows

Relevance for Land

Urban areas make up only 3% of the space but have strong implication on rural areas

- ▶ generate 50% of the **waste**,
- ▶ emit 60-80% of **GHG** and
- ▶ use 75% of **natural resources** (UNEP 2012)

- ▶ Loss of (agricultural) land due to **city expansion** (170% growth in area)
- ▶ **Nutrient cycles are not closed**: Only 4% of nitrogen and phosphorus from urban areas are recycled/ get back to rural areas (Morée et al., 2013)
- ▶ At the same time „**transformative**“ **potential of urban areas** (new business models, lifestyles, potential for more efficient structures)



Urbanisation, Food and Land Use

“Modern” urban food habits influence rural consumers, rural land use and distribution systems

- ▶ Increased demand for **resource intense diets** (more processed foods, more animal based products, more food waste)
- ▶ **Globalized food system** (long distance, „supermarketization“): disconnection from rural „Hinterland“
- ▶ Not **sustainable** (impact on health, natural resources social equity etc.)

Prevailing Rural Urban Dicotomy

Still prevailing dichotomy between urban and rural (also in administration) and sectoral approaches („silo thinking“) are barriers for sustainable and balanced territorial development

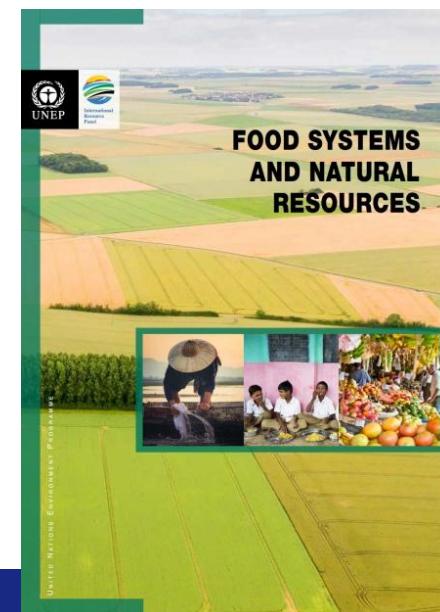
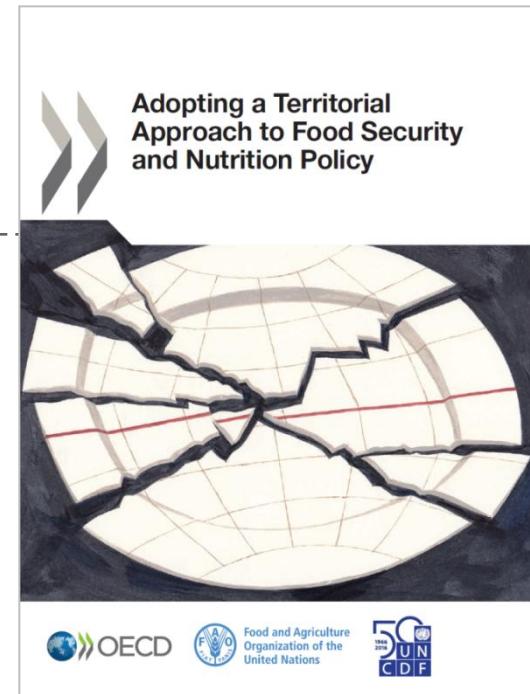
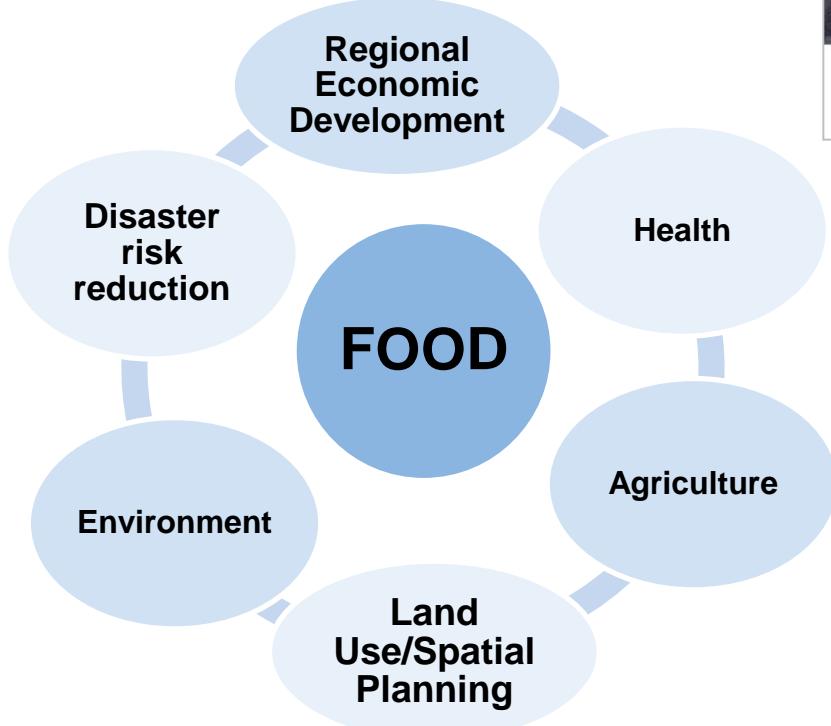
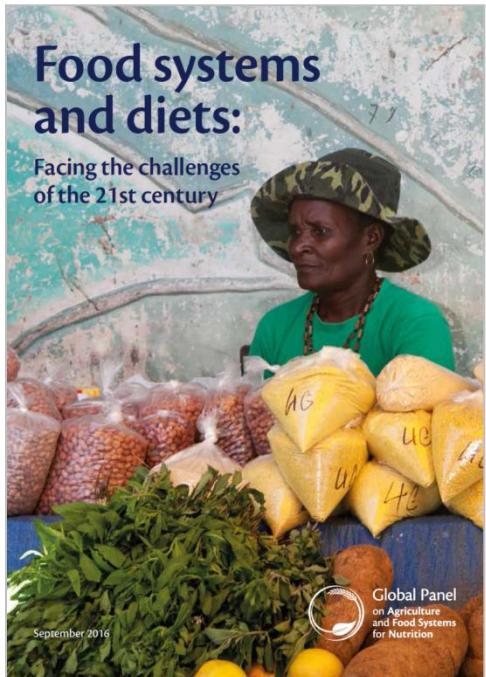


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Opportunities for an integrated approach



Food Policy as an entry point for integrated territorial development?



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Thanks! Any more Questions?

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