WHY TALK ABOUT INEQUALITY IN RURAL AREAS?

836 million
People living in extreme poverty

815 million
Number of undernourished people rose between 2015 and 2016

3/4
Extreme poor and food insecurity live in rural areas

Share of poor people in agriculture

South Asia: 83% in agriculture, 56% in rural areas
Sub-Saharan Africa: 82% in agriculture, 76% in rural areas
East Asia & Pacific: 74% in agriculture, 49% in rural areas
Europe & Central Asia: 86% in agriculture, 39% in rural areas
Latin America & Caribbean: 53% in agriculture, 68% in rural areas

CONFERENCE APPROACHES

Despite the many interventions designed to reduce rural poverty, few have measured their impact on reducing inequalities within rural areas.

This conference seeks to examine approaches to rural poverty reduction that have had a redistributive impact on four main areas of inequality in rural areas:

- **Resources.** Rural poverty results from inequality in the access of groups, households and individuals to resources such as income, land, inputs, capital, education and public transfer payments.

  What resources need to be redistributed, to what extent and how?

- **Resilience.** The rural poor often lack the ability to cope with environmental degradation, climate change, economic shocks and risks.

  How to redistribute risk to eliminate the "double punishment" of the most vulnerable?

- **Relationships.** Social relationships are a key determinant of an individual’s ability to access resources and cope with shocks. Unequal power relationships tend to underlie other inequalities, particularly for women, youth and indigenous peoples.

  How can relationships be rebalanced so that those “left behind” count, are recognized and have voice?

- **Rights.** Political rights and voice, ensured through the enactment and enforcement of laws and policies, are fundamental if rural poverty is to be truly eradicated. Marginalized groups such as women, youth and indigenous peoples face particular challenges in asserting their rights.

  How can policies, laws and rights serve as a remedy and means of institutionalizing equality?
EXPERTS WILL DISCUSS HOW REDISTRIBUTION CAN RESULT IN SUSTAINED POVERTY REDUCTION IN RURAL AREAS

**APPROACHES AND THEORIES OF CHANGE**

Examining the impact on inequality and poverty reduction of different development approaches.

**MEASUREMENT AND DATA**

Sharing methods for measuring rural inequality and resulting data from research and development interventions.

**FINDINGS AND LESSONS**

Discussing findings from evaluations and research on effective approaches and verified factors that contribute to or exacerbate disparities in rural areas.

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**CONFERENCE PURPOSE**

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**OBJECTIVES**

- Identify effective approaches to overcoming disparities in rural areas that contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 10 and means for evaluating them.
- Identify concrete actions or interventions that will bend the curve towards equitable growth as a means of reducing rural poverty.
- Learn how evaluations can contribute to reducing inequality in rural areas and to draw lessons for designing policies and projects.

**DISCUSSANTS**

- Experts on rural poverty and inequality from development agencies, academia, think tanks, the private sector, social movements, evaluation and policy institutions, as well as government representatives.
- Discussants will have specialist knowledge in at least one of the thematic issues, experience in monitoring and evaluation, or play a significant role in promoting the evaluability of rural inequalities.

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Follow the conversation on twitter using: #EVALinequality

Contact the conference secretariat: evaluation@ifad.org


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