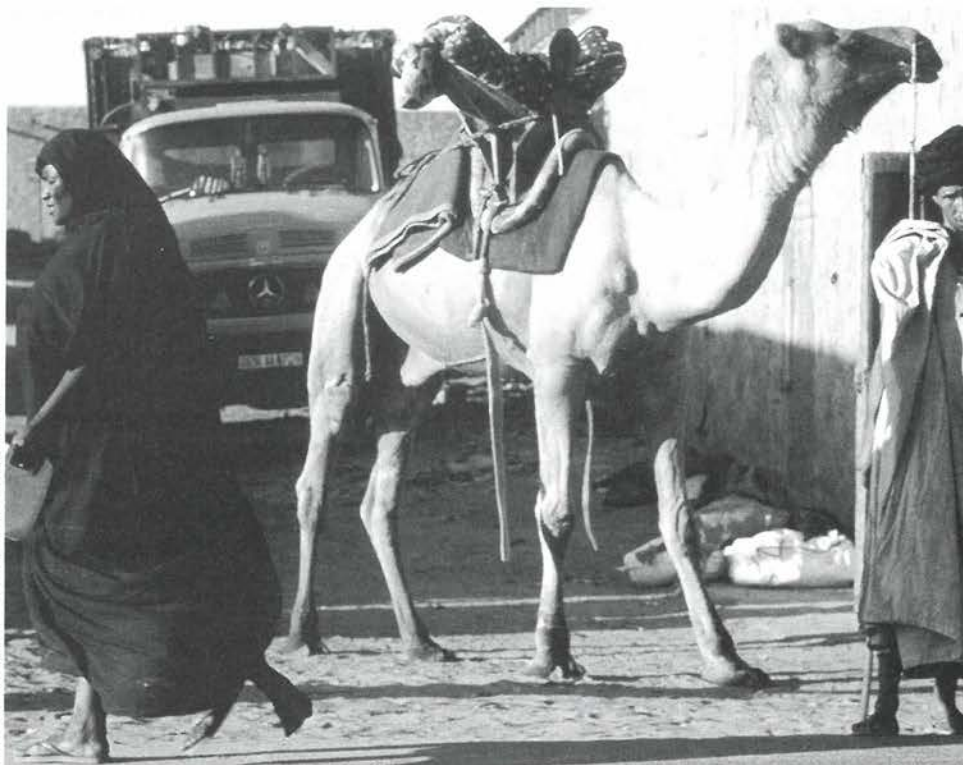


## Summary

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Bernard Desjeux - Villes en développement



Aïoun el Atrouss, Mauritania

## The rural-urban interface

**R**ural economy means not merely subsistence economy (typical of hunter-gatherer communities or small groups of itinerant farmers); it applies rather, in the accepted use of the term, to settlements combining not only a large majority of farmers but also a population of non-farming workers, either living in the midst of the farming district or based in surrounding villages, small and medium sized towns. It is in this phase of the development process that the relationship between countryside and towns gained its full weight. In Europe, industrial economy emerged within that context. But the various regions of the world have not all gone through the same process of structuring their rural economies and cannot therefore have the same pace of development today. In large parts of Asia, over a millenium of rural economy led to the accumulation of a significant capital base (land development, farming techniques, crafts, material and human resources) which is today rapidly being transferred to modern urban activities. In Latin America, the fact that settlers monopolized land occupation led to the current situation of large holdings and landless peasants - which is only marginally related to the "enclosure" situation in the U.K. In Sub-Sahara Africa, a superficial process of colonization did not really modify the behavioural patterns of pre- or proto-rural societies, based on partly itinerant farming,

with no significant accumulation of primitive rural capital. In "Growth and Economic Structures", S. Kuznets clearly identified the various contributions of farming to economic development : supply of labour force (brought up at the expense of the rural community) to non-farming activities; supply of capital for settlement in urban areas (employment and housing); supply of market outlets for manufactured products and urban services... while in return meeting the new urban demand for agricultural produce. Is it possible today to build or to support such an interface between rural and urban areas in developing countries or can we do without it? "No Shortcuts to Progress" was the title of G. Hyden's article on the "villagisation" experiment and the attempt at by-passing the stage of forming an urban bourgeoisie in Tanzania. It is not possible to artificially reproduce under current constraints what in other times and places has been a long-term development. Indeed, the revolution in communication technology deeply modified the terms of trade and penalized medium-sized urban centres. Now, in the most remote areas of the world, foreign goods are presented by the media and offered by the web of international trade. Many trades and functions of small towns have become obsolete because mass consumer items are now reaching their limited markets - too limited to justify local



alternatives. In developed countries, demand is now directed to non-food products (including drugs) and generates competition at an international level which determines volatile world prices; i.e. additional problems which go against the formation of consistent and stable "local economies" or at least represent serious challenges where these exist. Therefore, the risk today is that no sustainable "rural economy" can spontaneously emerge where there is no dense and hierarchical network of towns of varying sizes.

Given the current world context, characterised by a general disinterest for raw materials exports and an imbalance between rising urban population and the pace of agricultural production growth, agricultural and rural development is once more a priority. How can we make sure that S. Kuznets' lesson will not be forgotten and that small and medium-sized towns - so essential to development as a whole - will not be excluded from development projects? Can we hope to see rural projects that no longer deal exclusively with agriculture? Or agricultural projects that will take market forces into account?

"Urban civilisation and agricultural development" was the topic discussed during the SMUH meeting in 1966... Updating the debate on the relationship between countryside and towns is a vital though difficult task. Research and experiments must continue; results must be shared - as this issue of "Villes en Développement" invites us to do. We must also learn to see our work in provisional evolving way - as pioneers in America knew how to do. ■

Michel Arnaud,  
Engineer, Architect, Urban  
Planning Consultant

## The role of small towns — in the mechanics of urban polarization

by Philippe Haeringer

***It is obvious that one cannot separate what is happening at the bottom of the urban pyramid from what is happening at the top. Now that the spotlight is on massive urban development, some authors rightfully remind us that small towns do exist as well and sometimes have higher growth rates than the big cities. However, the two phenomena are complementary rather than in opposition.***

The champions of the small town stake their opposition on the basis of statistics and the scale of the challenges involved: given the concerns expressed about megalopolises, the development of small and medium-sized towns permits more optimistic projections. Therefore, we should focus on them more closely.

Although the argument is somewhat tinged with nostalgia, this view seems well-founded and has an unassailable logic when we consider a better distribution of effort. But it should be placed within a more global analysis if we are to avoid disillusionment.

### **A single current**

From North to South, the same currents contribute to mega-

lopolis development and small town renewal. But this was not always so. Before contemporary technological progress heralded a new order, urban development was region-specific, with few exceptions. The urban pyramid therefore reflected links existing between the various regions. Today, the urban development process is one of polarization - population flows now being an increasingly determining factor.

Small towns, like big cities, attract rural people - thus contributing to the desertion of the rural areas. Their location is less and less a reflection of regional activities; it follows more and more the larger channels which gather growing and converging currents.

### **From town to local centres**

Having said this, the patterns differ greatly from one continent to another. In Western Europe, where rural areas have already been deserted, local centres are clearly wealthier when they are situated near an urban centre of greater size - which is exactly the opposite of what our geography books taught us in the past. It is clear however that we must now talk about local centres rather than towns. Despite the fact that many smaller towns focus on their historical identity, the analysis of their population and economic patterns show in an often striking manner that they merely are the anonymous links of a continuous urban chain. This is true despite the lack of continuity (in some cases, not all) in the urban landscape.

### **The village syndrome**

Such a situation perfectly matches the trends of megalopolis development which, contrary to what happened in classical towns, are centrifugal. Today's megalopolis can guarantee its environmental survival by opening out to their surrounding area; the "village syndrome" has struck many of its residents. Caught up within the world of the metropolis, every resident longs for a new homeland and finds it - sometimes very far away given the excellence of the transport systems - in those real or newly created small towns and large villages. At the same time, some of the larger market towns of the past are dying because they are situated upstream of the current which feeds the megalopolis. And if they don't disappear completely, it is because they also scour the area they control for survival.

### **Towns and rural areas in the South**

The situation is very different in the countries of the South where the countryside is still highly populated. The rural-urban flows exist as well but they started much later and high birth rates make up for population migrations. Relays must be established upstream: there is a multiplication of small towns, large villages and growth centres in rural areas. Their emergence is all the more spectacular given that it often happens in contexts where the urban mesh was previously quite loosely-woven.

The study of migration routes clearly shows the role played by small urban centres as relays. But there is more: they also seem to be a substitute to villages in many ways. On the one hand, peasant communities, while unchanged, tend to settle closer to the local urban centre or to the roads and tracks that lead to it. The main reason for this is to get better access to services (school, health etc.) and to markets for their produce.



On the other hand, urban dwellers who live far away, especially in the megalopolis, or those who have come from overseas tend to see small urban centres as closer to their roots. They wish to involve themselves in the life of the local urban centre or the county town to keep in contact, affirm their social position, take part in local politics or simply to live there when retired.

### New opportunities

Could we then be in the golden age of smaller towns? Unfortunately, this is no more true in the South that it is in the North. In Africa for example, small urban centres in the rural areas may attract, to some extent, rural people and represent a burial ground for city dwellers but are not usually creative and autonomous entities producing their own wealth. Just as capital cities turn into megalopolises and regional centres develop, the multiplication of rural towns is primarily a population phenomenon. In those parts of the world where rural areas are still heavily populated, it all happens as if a process of "floculation" occurred, an aggregation upstream of the major flows. This sort of urban development process or pre-urban process, facilitated by a pause in the development of big cities, is often seen in countries going through difficult times. However, we should be able to see in such situations new favourable opportunities to be seized. Whether we call these centres towns or not, they offer new incentives for innovative small town development policies and returning city dwellers should be able to do more than merely investing for old age or for showing off. Some have already started. ■

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This article is a summary of 2 papers recently published by the author in the 150 Anniversary issue of "L'Environnement", dec. 1995 "La campagne métropolitaine" and in "Villes en Parallèle", No. 22, 1995 "La petite ville face au procès de mégapolisation".

# Thirty years of observation – in Africa

by Monique Bertrand, geographer, University of Caen

## **Studying the relationship between towns and rural areas is nothing new in the study of secondary towns in Africa. But the interest for "inland" centres is far from monolithic.**

In the 60's, small urban centres were seen as factors of modernity in their respective regions. Then in the 70's, the focus was on the diversity of their functions: as points for the distribution of agricultural produce, the supply of social and financial services for rural areas. Studies reveal the use of "management techniques" (marketing, administrative services) but there is still a dual system: towns and rural areas were dealt with as separate entities and the contradictions were hardly mentioned. Illustrated by intense exchanges in Southern Benin, the formula "urban/rural relations" became the standard by-line in a number of papers showing that the urban development process in Africa was on a modest scale. These papers

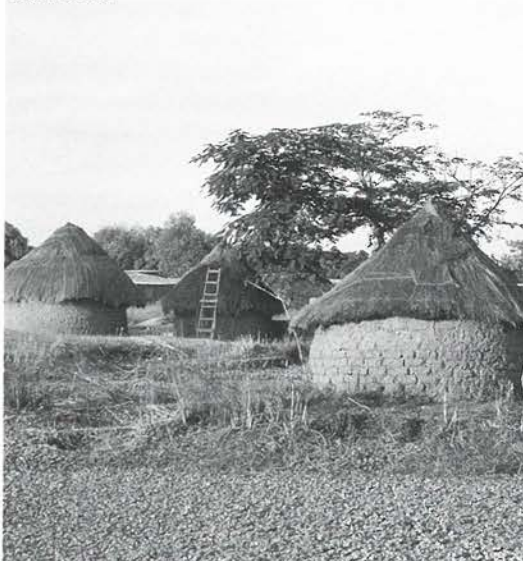
spoke about new urban centres with a few thousand residents. These new emerging urban centres grew with the setting up of public facilities, attracting the younger population and represented the bottom of the urban hierarchy, just below the too scarce regional centres: but nevertheless it was difficult for them to avoid the implications of their rural setting, a source of opportunities but bringing also the pressures related to a poorly skilled labour force.

Urban functions in rural development involve the following: opening up of the rural areas and population flows other than the merely rural-urban migrations; multiple dimensions for education, health, trade services, basic administrative functions, personal property investment of migrants. The

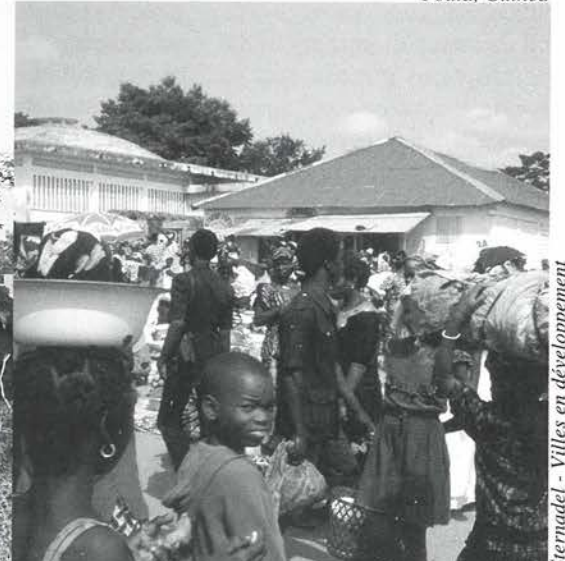
main issues are power and food supply. These "nurturing halos" around towns suggest potentially fruitful complementary opportunities for joint development. Further sociological research needs to be carried out to understand the basis of social requirements. The role of women in the marketing of food products or the family components of social links have not yet been studied in-depth in secondary urban centres; historical and political representations are not well known. Beyond the very limited top-down policies and funding patterns, the urban development problem in Africa is now a grassroots issue or has shifted "in-land", further afield.

What is the interface between urban and rural "ways of life" – so often presented in European research as being in complete opposition? Should we deal with this interface from the rural or the urban standpoint? Some talk mainly about the openness of rapidly changing small towns but tone it down with their rural specificity; others confine small towns to their rural mission as merely local predators and redistribution centres. Should we speak of income differential and cultural uprooting? Or is it the force of their immediate rural surroundings that restrict the aborted towns of Africa to their identity as "semi-urban centres"?

Sahr, Châd



Fouta, Guinée



Sternadel - Villes en développement



and then "market-towns"? In some cases, peasant economies are taken over by urban markets (urbanizing of the countryside); elsewhere, urban activities are taken over by rural migrants (informal sector). But beyond all rhetoric, the objective is to work on the balance of power between towns and rural areas. By the end of the 80's, the debate about rural-urban exchanges had become even more strained between arguments stressing "dynamic growth" and counter-arguments claiming "mediocre performance". Old urban centres in West Africa no longer have a production base. The economic collapse of towns that were booming after independence and poor population inflows when compared to the high population density of Asian towns, led to pessimistic forecasts. The Bamileke case showed the European preconceptions of a break between rural and urban areas to be wrong. The perspective of alternative growth and endogenous performance attracted international experts; donors highlighted food security. But the limitations of trade and production systems soon appeared clear in some parts of the continent. A study of the food sector thus shows the missing links in the marketing chain - which had been masked by the simplistic view of the rural-urban interdependence. When too much emphasis is placed on rural-urban interaction during growth, on the complementarity of the development process and on seeing the various population groups as a "human continuum", the basic issue of market dependency is too often forgotten: some farming and stockbreeding areas are indeed dominated by the traders and officials of towns; conversely, many mining centres get their food supply from far away at high cost because they have not stimulated low cost production in the surrounding areas.

Studies on urban-rural links often have not dealt with the

social relationship generated by the power small towns have over their surrounding areas. Imbalances in the terms of trade were more readily apparent for "networks of towns" - overdeveloped urban centres vs. anaemic relay-towns. Yet, the urban-rural crisis is obvious: in Cameroon, for example, increasing family pressure for credit, school and food is going against the static views that prevailed on local solidarity and regional transfers. Some local areas have lost all life because of local urban supremacy. But also, having too high a proportion of the population working in agriculture hinders the development of many small towns.

The hinterland between small towns is therefore a concept that should be neither watered down nor automatically associated with the values of integration. Future studies should identify for each specific region strong points and difficulties: should towns be seen simply as a pump draining all the strength and meagre potential of the countryside? or as innervating centres, rich in migrants and market opportunities, promoting self-centered growth through a booming informal sector? While forest economies still fare better than the Sahel economies, can the food production sector regain its true place in the countryside? The structures and prevailing conditions of trade will for a long time yet impact on the relationship between secondary towns and their surrounding rural areas. ■

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## Transforming space in Sumatra

by Marc Pain, Professor at the Paris X University  
interview by Michel Gérard

*M.G. : Between 1985 and 1991, you worked on transmigrations from Java and Bali to the South of Sumatra. What was it all about ?*

*M.P. :* Under the name "Transmigrasi", Indonesia launched in 1905 and continued developing after independence the biggest rural settlement programme ever implemented in tropical areas. From 1969 to 1994, 1.65 million volunteer families (i.e. 5.5 million people) were settled by the State in the islands of Sumatra, Borneo or Sulawesi - where there was land available for farming while there was a dramatic shortage in Bali and Java.

Following that movement, huge spontaneous migrations started - initially, in the provinces close to Java, where the majority of the official transmigrants came from. There are now some 20 million people living in Southern Sumatra, while there were 2,2 million in 1930.

*M.G. : What do you think about these migration flows?*

*M.P. :* I am rather optimistic and... realistic. First of all, if migrations are still happening now, it means that there are powerful motivations behind them. The case is more striking in Southern Sumatra than in other areas because there is a serious population imbalance between Java and Sumatra: despite strong migration flows, the differential in population density is 1 to 10. Secondly, the new settlements, despite their environmental and economic impact, are an integral part of the development process and must be recognized as such. Finally, migrations facilitate regional integration in an

archipelago spreading over more than 5000 km.

The real question is: how can rural and urban space be controlled in order to optimize the effort of the State, migrants and industrialists interested in the process?

*M.G. : How did transmigrations occupy space?*

*M.P. :* While indigenous systems were developing along narrow strips in the valleys and non marshy coastal lines or in mountain basins, agricultural settlements occupied large blocks in the plains - bringing all of a sudden into empty space infrastructural facilities and high population density.

Diversification of production or changes in project location (land reclamation of marshy areas after that of interfluvial areas for instance) did not modify the settlement patterns of the State. The process is always of mass settlement - like the settlement project in the Musi Delta, currently under implementation.

*M.G. : How are migrant arrivals organised ?*

*M.P. :* "Transmigrants" arrive under Governmental schemes. Spontaneous migrants - the non expected ones - must find unoccupied land through family networks. Transmigration centres are a factor of attraction.

*M.G. : What are the results of this mix of Government settlement programmes and spontaneous settlements?*

*M.P. :* One can get an idea of the impact when looking at SPOT images. In addition, I carried out field surveys and tried to verify and translate my obser-

vations into maps for the decision-makers.

The first major and visible fact is that there is a real willingness on the part of the State. But this does not necessarily generate immediate development.

Briefly, there are central areas, ill-integrated peripheral areas and pioneer fronts of agricultural settlements with risks...

In all 3 types of settlement areas, there are official transmigrants and spontaneous migrants.

*M.G. : What do you mean by central areas?*

*M.P. :* Some areas - craft or trading centres, commercial plantations, transmigration centres, spontaneous settlement areas in unoccupied areas, well situated small towns - became central because of the complementary interaction of development players. Trade and financial flows between the State, agroprocessing and forestry investors, migrants and their families are facilitated by a road network (the Trans-Sumatra road is the main link) and various facilities (buses, power). The way towns polarized space reflects the dynamics of the process : agricultural production is now only one of the numerous activities that have become possible.

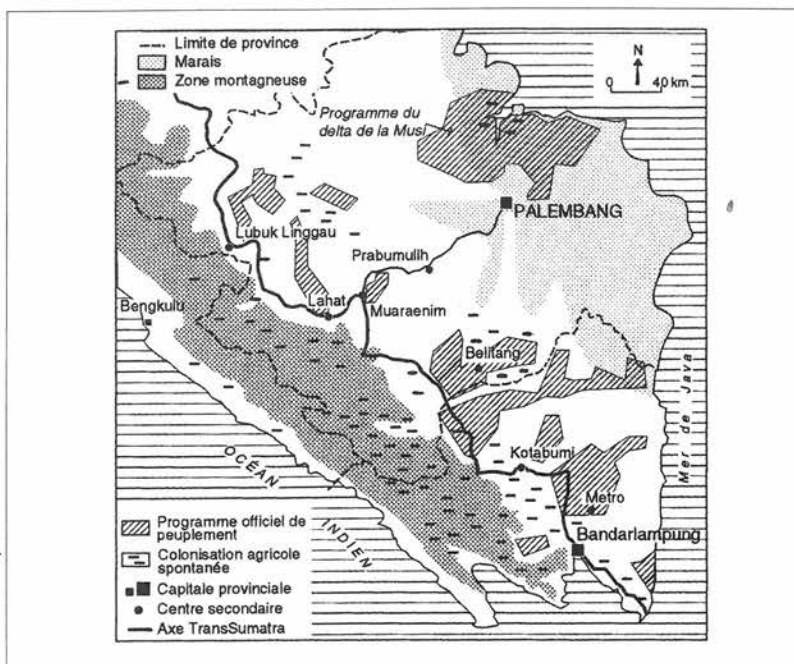
*M.G. : Are there any big cities?*

*M.P. :* Yes, bordering these various areas : Bandarlampung and Palembang have already over 1 million residents. But I think that secondary towns are more important and useful - they are the skeletal structure of the regions, the relays between agricultural areas and the two big cities. The Indonesian Government understood and confirmed their role by granting them an administrative status similar to that of a French "Prefecture".

*M.G. : What about the peripheral areas? What are these all about?*

*M.P. :* They are forest settlements or new settlements around older settlement areas

*Lampung (South of Sumatra) : peopling and land use : transmigrations areas and spontaneous settlements*



but not well connected to central areas, and therefore far away from urban facilities. Take, for instance, the villages recently created by local transmigration in Northern Lampung, "spontans" villages or the transmigration villages of Pematang Panggang, east of Belitang, or the villages on newly reclaimed marshy land.

When initial choices had to be made, the State tended to overemphasise production. Investments in transport and services would be the first step to break the isolation of these peripheral areas.

*M.G. : Let's talk now about the 3rd type of area - the pioneer fronts with risks.*

*M.P. :* These are located in the widespread swamps of the Eastern Coast - these settlements are made up of official transmigrants, foresters and agroprocessors - and in the mountains - unofficial migrations. Their main characteristic is the unassessed risks involved. It is understandable that the State wishes to integrate into the national economy the vast under-utilized areas on its coastline. But clearing out thousands of hectares of swamp forests with all their natural

reserves is bound to lead to some unexpected results.

Environmental impact studies should urgently be carried out. In mountain areas as well, changes are happening rapidly and the risks should not be underestimated - both in terms of environmental impact and possible conflicts between the State and the settlers.

Two separate approaches are in direct opposition here. On the one hand, Government has strict views on the conservation of forests and watersheds, even in already highly populated areas. On the other, settlers try to quickly earn money through cash crops without giving much thought to farming practices. There are convincing arguments on both sides justifying these respective approaches. One might hope to be able, on a case-by-case basis, to try and integrate, rather than exclude, mountain areas into regional economies with their remarkable agricultural potential. As for urban shanty towns, legalization of de facto situations would avoid anarchy.

*M.G. : What can you say by way of a conclusion?*

*M.P. :* These extraordinary migrations flows show that the

concerned families from Java and Bali have a real desire to develop. Integration with indigenous people is positive. But if you look at the situation of peripheral and risk areas, sector-specific approaches (agricultural or environmental) led Government and sometimes industry to make mistakes. Flexible and pragmatic land planning is required, taking into account the history, basic movements and all social and economic factors and being clear about the fact that there is always something spontaneous in any process of development. ■

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## Urban-rural interface in sub-sahara Africa

by Jean-Marie Cour, Club du Sahel

***In those Sub-Sahara African countries with fast growing populations, we need to look at the interface between rural and urban areas from 3 viewpoints : population, economy, finance.***

### Population

A period of demographic transition spans 4 generations with total population increasing tenfold and its distribution dramatically changing. Urban growth (as a proportion of the total population living in towns) is the most striking factor. Over the 1930-2030 period, the urban sector will account for 70 % of population growth. Urban population will have multiplied by 100 and rural population by 4. The number of towns of all sizes has in fact trebled between 1960 and 1990 : towns are now closer to the rural world as rural population and rural activities tend to become concentrated in peri-urban areas, closer to markets and urban services. While most migrants are of a working age, the idea that urban development empties out rural areas is false. Urban growth in fact generates more mobility than indicated by net flows from rural to urban areas as real flows in gross terms are sometimes 3 times higher. Such mobility reduces the risks of overpopulation in the most disadvantaged areas of development. Net migration flows from rural to urban areas are also easily reversible in the case of a serious economic crisis. Rural areas then serve as shock-absorbers when people excluded from the urban world seek refuge there.

### Economy

Marking, as it does, the first form of the division of labour, urban development is necessary (but not enough in itself) to open up the rural world to market economy, to modern farming techniques, to improved income and purchasing power for rural people and to combat rural underdevelopment. For individual farmers, there are almost unlimited opportunities of regional market growth for food and fuel products : surplus or "marketable" production grows, following more or less the growth ratio of farming to non-farming population. Over one century, surplus production has increased more than tenfold! No such growth rate can be expected for export crops which today account for less than 10 % of the total value of primary production. The perspectives of real income growth per farmer, generated by urban development, are much more significant than what could be expected from a revaluation of the terms of trade or from the development of non-agricultural rural activities. Surplus production sold to regional markets provides farmers with the resources required to buy tools and inputs of non-agricultural origin, which are vital to increase yields. At the same time, rural

people can access consumer goods and paying services (such as training, information...). This is in fact an essential motivation for them to increase their marketable

surplus. Because they know they can buy on the market what they no longer produce themselves, farmers can specialize in certain crops, in particular the new products requested by urban people.

Urban development creates new food needs. Most of the basic foodstuffs consumed in Africa today, such as wheat, maize, cassava, banana, groundnut, are imported. Because of the growing demand for these basic products, conditions are now ripe for the emergence of a local supply if the specific crop can be grown under local climatic conditions or of substitutes. If the new products had not been introduced by urban traders, Africa could not feed a quarter of its current population. In order for rural areas to feed towns, two-way trade channels must be established between consumers and producers, through intermediaries, with both sides clearly seeing the benefit of the link. The quality and effective availability of goods and services supplied by the towns for rural consumption therefore plays a vital role. While it is easy to identify what rural farmers sell to town dwellers, it is not always so easy to identify the goods and services supplied by towns as a counterpart for their purchases of agricultural produce : material goods of urban or imported origin, investments in town, family jobs, new social relationship etc. In money terms, there is an imbalance in Africa in the trade links between towns and rural areas. Thus, in Ghana, towns "import" from the rural areas what accounts for 15 % of the GDP but "export" only 11 % of the GDP. While the effective supply of goods and services from towns to the rural areas often seems quite limited, it must be recalled that at the beginning of the urban





Faranati - Kindia, Guinée

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development process rural demand is low and therefore limits urban supply.

The confrontation between urban food demand and the supply of agricultural products, as well as between rural demand and urban supply, happens within the structured context of town, transport and communication networks, with varying levels of transaction costs and competitive situations, depending on the region. In that context, the role of urban intermediaries (transport services, traders, bankers) is to create new needs in rural (often conservative) areas to generate new trade links. The intermediaries also circulate the information to promote innovative ideas - similar, in a sense, to bees extracting from flowers the nectar required for hive survival and fertilizing plants in the process. Hence the acronym used in the WALTPS study (RUCHE or "hive", meaning Urban-centered regions with intense trade links and services) to signify that towns and their hinterland function in symbiosis and that it is therefore artificial to consider them in opposition or in isolation. It is in these "hives" that one finds the higher farming population density, higher yields for marketable crops, higher levels of farm income

and purchasing power, as well as rapid technological changes. In remote areas, where the farming/non-farming population ratio is low and does not vary much, there is logically a strong resistance of peasants to the introduction of new technology. It can only be overcome if natural urban incentives are artificially reproduced through the provision of widescale leadership and extension services - which is costly and therefore unsustainable.

### Finance

Agriculture, which is initially the main activity, contributes through the terms of trade between various sectors, taxes, fees and other forms of take-off, to the development of non-farming sectors and towns. This take-off is often pinpointed as one of the causes of overdevelopment of towns and an attendant slump in rural areas. In fact, any attempt at slowing down urban development by removing the so-called "urban bias" would slow down the very market growth which is vital for rural development. In Africa, as elsewhere, the natural and seemingly irresistible trend is towards a progressive decline in agricultural prices as compared to the prices of manufactured goods and services. A slow,

continued, decline of agricultural prices of around 1 % per year over a long period of time contributes, in fact, to increased competitiveness of African agriculture vis-a-vis the world market of agrifood products while increasing farmers' purchasing power by an average 3 % each year. This would not be possible if agricultural prices and urban development were kept constant.

In addition, the urban drain on agricultural resources is neither a final nor irreversible trend. In the process of development, urban activities which are the most numerous at a given time will also be subjected to a similar drain on resources - thus new activities will emerge, creating new market outlets, new needs and new jobs etc. In the long term, when the urban development process is very advanced, the trend of these net transfers between the agricultural sector and the rest of the economy can be reversed. In the same way as is happening now in developed countries, urban economy will subsidize rural economy in order to keep a balanced occupation of land in rural areas ... but, as Kipling said, this is another story. ■

## Publications



**Mobilité et transports urbains non motorisés au Mali.** International workshop on transport systems in Sub-Sahara Africa. Arcueil : INRETS, 1995, 170 p

This research aimed at identifying constraints and possible solutions in the use of non-motorized transport in African towns. It is based on the assessment that public transportation systems will not be available to many people in Africa because of cost and lack of supply. Price : FF.150

→ Contact : INRETS, 2 avenue du Général Malleret-Joinville, 94114 Arcueil Cedex, France

**Développement local urbain en Afrique. Histoires de projets - Paris :** GRET/Min. of cooperation, 1996, 79 p. (Coll. Etudes & Travaux)

Six urban development projects in Benin, Cameroon and Haiti. The projects described provide a useful assessment on some cross-sectoral issues : intervention scale, relationship with partners, sectoral or territorial approaches, emergency situations vs. development, evolution of skills.

Price : FF. 70

→ Contact : GRET, 213 rue La Fayette, 75010 Paris, France.

**Réseaux d'information et réseau urbain au Brésil,** by Leila Christina Dias. Paris : L'Harmattan, 1995, 172 p. (Coll. Géographies en liberté).

In recent years, Brazil has seen new dynamic approaches in urban organisation, linked to modernization and to new developments in the technical, economic, industrial and financial areas.

Price : FF. 120

→ Contact : L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, 75005 Paris, France



Judging by the fruitful exchanges and the number of countries represented (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Chad), the JVE Programme (Youth, Town, Employment) workshop was a success.

The 140 participants agreed on the importance of the work done under the JVE Programme using a transversal approach to youth issues, involving very diverse partners and placing the emphasis on civil society participation.

Participants agreed to a second phase of the programme on the South and to set up a coordination unit in France. They strongly felt that networks should be established to link up the existing JVE committees. The attending Cooperation Missions (Benin, Mali, Senegal) and the host Cooperation Mission (Burkina Faso) proposed to set up JVE projects or programmes in their countries, in coordination with the JVE unit in France.

The Ministry of Cooperation stressed the networking and capitalisation functions of the JVE unit, in addition to its review function relating to urban youth projects.

These projects will be financed by the usual facilities of the Ministry of Cooperation and by the Cooperation Missions.

The minutes of the meeting will be published in June.

## The International Institute of Public Administration

This Institute is organising, together with the National School of Administration of Tunisia, a symposium to be held in Tunis on June 19-21 on "Decentralisation and modernization of administration"; the event is jointly funded by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Cooperation. Around 60 participants from central administrations, local governments and research institutes are expected from Sub-Sahara Africa, the Maghreb and Europe.

## N-AERUS

European researchers met in Brussels in March and decided to set up a network while waiting for the creation of their association which should take place at the end of 1996; the objective is to put together, mobilise and develop institutional and individual training and research capacities in Europe in the area of urban development in the South. The provisional officers of the European Urban Research Network for the South (N-AERUS) are : Michael Mattingly (London), Marcello Balbo (Venice), Emile Le Bris (Paris), Marc Gossé (Brussels).

→ Contact : ISACF-La Cambre, 19 Place Eugène Flagey, 1050 Brussels, Belgium, Tel/Fax : (32-2)648 65 49

## Villes d'Afrique

A group of young African professionals is launching a new journal entitled "Villes d'Afrique". A pilot issue is now available. Their concern is to reflect critically on African towns, to consider plural, multifaceted towns, to attract young African professionals. Subscription fees to this quarterly publication is FF. 50.

→ Contact : Mr. L.Y. Hassimiyu, 5 avenue Rose de Launay, 92330 Sceaux, France.

## The African School of architecture and urban design of Lome (EAMAU)

On April 11, 1996, EAMAU organised its second scientific and pedagogical council aimed at preparing the next Board meeting. The need to go on with the reform process was highlighted - focusing on the need of all stakeholders and in particular, local governments.

## Professional Association for Urban Development and Cooperation (ADP)

The yearly get-together is planned for September 6, 1996. The topic is : large-scale projects and their relevance in the developing world. A participation fee of FF. 100 is asked; participants will be given the working document and the minutes of the meeting.

→ Contact : ISTEED "Villes en Développement", Fax : (33-1) 40 81 15 99

## Municipal Development Programme, West and Central Africa Module (MDP)

MDP held in Cotonou, on April 9 and 10, 1996, a meeting of its steering committee; there were representatives of African local governments and the major donors involved (Ministry of Cooperation, Canada, European Commission, World Bank). A programme of activities was designed around 4 major themes :

1. Setting up of observatories of the decentralisation process and local finance.
2. Setting up of specific training courses (technical, administrative and financial issues) for local governments in close association with local schools.
3. Support to mayors' associations.
4. Capitalization and circulation of municipal information in West and Central Africa.

## E-MAIL

From now on, you can contact the information and documentation centre of Villes en Développement by E-Mail to ask for information or to send files. Our address is : isted@ved.min-equip.fr

Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement

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