

A large, light green abstract graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several overlapping, rounded, brushstroke-like shapes that resemble a stylized tree or a cluster of leaves. It extends from the top left towards the bottom left, partially overlapping the text area.

Post Conference Assessment “Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies” - India

Rekha Abel (Consultant) and
Roberto Iturralde (Conference M&E team)

September 2010

Informe del Programa Dinámicas Territoriales Rurales

Este documento es un resultado del Programa Dinámicas Territoriales Rurales, que Rimisp lleva a cabo en varios países de América Latina en colaboración con numerosos socios. El programa cuenta con el auspicio del Centro Internacional de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo (IDRC, Canadá). Se autoriza la reproducción parcial o total y la difusión del documento sin fines de lucro y sujeta a que se cite la fuente.

This document is a result of the Rural Territorial Dynamics Program, implemented by Rimisp in several Latin American countries in collaboration with numerous partners. The program has been supported by the International Development Research Center (IDRC, Canada). We authorize the non-for-profit partial or full reproduction and dissemination of this document, subject to the source being properly acknowledged.

Cita / Citation:

Rimisp - Centro Latinoamericano para el Desarrollo Rural. 2010. Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies Post Conference Assessment. Informe del Programa Dinámicas Territoriales Rurales. Rimisp, Santiago, Chile.

© Rimisp-Centro Latinoamericano para el Desarrollo Rural

Programa Dinámicas Territoriales Rurales

Casilla 228-22

Santiago, Chile

Tel + (56-2) 236 45 57

dtr@rimisp.org

www.rimisp.org/dtr

Indice

- 1. INTRODUCTION 4
- 2. METHODOLOGY 6
- 3. FINDINGS 7
 - 3.1. Initiatives influenced for the Conference..... 8
 - 3.2. Relationships established during the Conference and strengthened after the Conference: 15
 - 3.3. Adoption of Conference declaration:..... 15
- 4. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 16
- Annex 1: List of Respondents - Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies Post conference evaluation..... 19
- Annex 2: GUIDE FOR POST CONFERENCE INTERVIEWS 20

1. INTRODUCTION

The conference entitled "Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies" was organized by the Ministry of Agrarian Development, Brazil, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, South Africa, Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC), People's Republic of China, Planning Commission, Government of India, The Institute for Human Development of India and Rimisp, Latin American Center for Rural Development Chile. It was held in New Delhi, India in April 2010.

The conference was supported financially by the following organizations: the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Italy; the International Development Research Centre, Canada; the Ministry of Agrarian Development, Brazil; the Planning Commission of the Government of India; the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, South Africa; the Development Bank of Southern Africa, South Africa; the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, South Africa; the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation, Netherlands; the Agence Française de Développement, France; the UK Department for International Development, India Office; the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, India; and the Indian Council for Social Science Research. The majority of participants were from the emerging economies of Brazil, China, India and South Africa.

Objectives of the Conference:

1. The conference seeks to stimulate the emergence of new frameworks, approaches and strategies for dealing with the major challenges posed by the dynamics of rural transformation in emerging economies driven by domestic and international trends.
2. Through bringing together senior level policy makers and public sector administrators, academia and civil society, we seek to share models, experiences and innovations that work, including new and flexible approaches that leverage the forces of globalization for the benefit of the rural populations.
3. We seek to strengthen understanding between countries facing similar challenges and to build new networks between common interest groups.

This report presents the findings of the post conference assessment that is part of the overall conference evaluation. The evaluation included an event assessment that was conducted during and immediately after the conference and post conference assessment based on interviews with a purposive sample of respondents.

The event assessment (cf. Evaluation Report), which included participant satisfaction survey, session observations and strategic interviews with participants, revealed that the participants found that their participation was a highly valuable investment for their work. Conference objectives were achieved, not only in terms of opportunities offered to participants for sharing models, experiences and rural development frameworks among the four emerging economies, but also in terms of building networks and strengthening mutual understanding. Respondents also acknowledged that presentations stimulated their own reflection and thinking about their national and local rural development challenges.

Respondents indicated various ways in which they were anticipating applying such learning, including: advocating for rural development initiatives for small farmers, embedding the notion on rural development in development plans and offering ideas to national and local plans. Furthermore, the conference endorsed the Conference Statement which includes a South-South cooperation agenda, centred on human development and with particular emphasis on public investments, institutional frameworks and governance systems along with effective public programs and policies that reach the poorest in the rural areas.

However, the policy application of the conference insights and contacts for collaboration remains an open question that merited further investigation in the subsequent months. In addition, while the event assessment showed a commitment to rural development and belief in multi-stakeholder process, the question remains of how multi stakeholder processes will be guided and facilitated and sustained over the coming months.

The post conference assessment had three objectives:

- To identify and characterize the type of influence, if any, to which the India conference has contributed.
- Describe specific examples of (policy and academic) influence in different contexts.
- To identify policy initiative seeds or plans following the conference for future tracking, research and further support.

This report presents the finding of the post conference assessment that sought to answer these questions.

2. METHODOLOGY

After the conference and following the conjoint declaration of New Delhi, several national and international initiatives are being developed and initiated at two tracks: the formal (via foreign relation ministries and governments) and the informal (via gathering and stimulating policy and research communities). The post conference assessment focused on looking at initiatives and assessing the extent to which they can be related to the New Delhi conference and categorizing them in terms of the type of influence/impact that these initiatives/frameworks have on policy formulation.

Evidence was gathered via telephone interviews with a purposive sample of conference participants. Criteria used for selecting interviewees were:

- Policy responsibility role: he/she has power (to initiate, propose, modify or approve) on national or sub-national RD policies and actions (due to position and decision-making 'level', research reputation, or activity done)
- National representation
- Organizational representation: Government (national and sub-national government/agencies), NGO, research centers & universities, funders/donors, business.
- Sector representation: e.g. agriculture, territorial development, land reform, social development, environment

An initial email inviting participation in the interview was sent by Rimisp seeking appointments for the telephone interview. Follow up emails were sent to those who did not respond to the initial email and in some cases telephone calls were made to the listed numbers to seek appointments. Of the 36 persons contacted, 11 responded and accepted the invitation for the interview. (See Annex 1 for a list of respondents).

| Description of effort | Number |
|---|--------|
| Total number of persons to whom email invitation was sent | 36 |
| Number of persons interviewed | 11 |
| Total number of responses received to email | 17 |
| Number of persons who accepted the invitation | 11 |
| Number of persons who declined | 3 |
| Number of persons who delegated someone else | 2 |
| Number of delegated persons who responded | 0 |
| Number of emails that bounced | 3 |
| No response despite follow up emails and telephone calls | 16 |

Respondents included delegation leaders (2), the organizers (2), donors (1), representatives of research/academic organizations (2), representatives of NGOs, and other government and sectoral leaders (5). The respondents were from the four emerging economies – India (2), China (2), Brazil (2), and South Africa (3).

Questions were developed as a semi structured interview and designed to elicit information in line with the objectives of the assessment, i.e. to identify influences of the conference on policy and research plans that could feed into policy initiatives. The questions thus focused on asking about (a) initiatives (frameworks/policy agendas) that the respondents were currently involved in that were directly or indirectly influenced by the conference, (b) continuing relationships established during the conference, (c) adoption/adaptation of the conference declaration in their work and (d) reasons for possible lack of action. (See Annex 2 for Guide to post conference interviews).

The interviews were undertaken during July and August 2010 i.e. 3-4 months after the conference.

3. FINDINGS

The findings are based on the responses given by the respondents (N=11) and are organized according to the questions that were asked. The section focuses on initiatives influenced by the conference, relationships established during and strengthened after the conference, and adaptation of conference declaration within policy and research agendas. While different frameworks (listed below) were perceived as potentially replicable, at the level of initiatives, there appears to be more progress on the research and academic front than on the policy front. On the research/academic front, relationships have been established and are being pursued, and plans for exchanges and conferences are being made (see section C below). At the policy level, the responses indicate that initiatives that are happening are more a continuation of existing initiatives, with no new initiatives emerging as yet. South Africa, which is a younger nation than the others, appears to have benefitted most as participation in the conference came at a time when they were finalizing their Green Paper on Rural Development and Land Reform – a policy document – and lessons from the conference appear to have figured in their reflection on the policies being formulated therein.

In the sections below, specific examples are derived directly from interviews with the respondents.

3.1. Initiatives influenced for the Conference

The initiatives influenced by the conference are classified in terms of (a) ideas/frameworks/experiences that respondents feel have the potential for replicability or adaptation; (b) initiatives in the different countries – primarily at the policy level – that are perceived by respondents as a consequence of the conference; and (c) research/academic initiatives perceived by respondents as a consequence of the conference..

A. Specific ideas, frameworks or experiences that were potentially replicable in one's own context

At the conference, while debating the vision for rural economies in key emerging economies, it was commonly agreed that governments have a political and ethical commitment to overcome poverty, with a vision that sees a reduction in rural-urban inequality and the rural sector receiving greater emphasis when addressing environmental, energy and food issues. While agriculture remains important in all countries, it was agreed that it is necessary to increase the capacity of rural people to earn better incomes. While presenting the country overviews, each country focused on its model of rural transformation. Ideas that were presented during these two introductory sessions that were best remembered after the conference and during the post conference interviews were referred to as potential replication models. Specific ideas are listed and discussed below. While none of ideas/frameworks were new to the respondents, the process of meeting people who are involved in researching or implementing programs appears to have strengthened the resolve to apply lessons.

Food Security: The different food security frameworks presented in the conference were of particular interest and were seen as having the potential to influence policy in their own countries. Every country overview paper presented at the conference referred to its framework for ensuring food security and also touched upon the link between improving the lives of smallholder farmers and food security through social protection mechanisms. Among the food security frameworks that interview respondents referred to are:

- According to respondents from Brazil, India's Public Distribution System (PDS) which aims at assuring food security for its millions was of particular interest to Brazil, for the similarities between India's PDS and Brazil's Food Acquisition Program (PAA) – both involve the purchase of food from small farmers to distribute publicly. One researcher from Brazil referred to this specifically in the context of conducting a comparative study of the Brazilian and Indian models of food acquisition and distribution. India's PDS distributes food at subsidized rates through more than 450,000 Fair

Price Shops across the country and food is distributed to the poor against ration cards (food stamps). Procurement of food from farmers in India is not restricted to small farmers and it is often the large landholders who benefit from the government procurement system. Brazil's PAA on the other hand, works both to secure market for smallholder farmers' products and allow families that are facing hunger or are in food insecurity to have regular access to food. According to the Brazilian respondent, one crucial lesson from India could be in terms of the way in which it is managing its distribution, given that India has the largest public distribution network in place.

- According to one respondent from India, Brazil's zero hunger program is a holistic program that can offer learnings for solving food insecurity and hunger in India. Brazil's zero hunger program has a wide range of actions and is not limited to discrete activities as in India – in Brazil it is a multi pronged approach to tackling hunger and food insecurity. India is currently in the midst of its mid-term review of its 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) and the learnings from Brazil can inform the future directions that emerge as a result of the review. The Planning Commission of India, which is responsible for the formulation and review of India's 5-year Plans, is part of the Steering Committee of the conference and therefore, as specified by one of the India respondents, there is high likelihood that learnings from the conference will influence the policy agendas set in the Plan. While the zero hunger program will need to be studied carefully and its applicability to India needs to be assessed, this is one program that has potential to be adapted in India as part of its social protection policy.
- Two respondents from South Africa referred to India's Green Revolution and the way in which it has helped increase agricultural productivity. During the conference the delegation members met with groups in India to better understand how the Green Revolution had been achieved. They would like to explore application of the lessons learned in the South African context. India's Green Revolution had three basic elements: (1) continued expansion of farming areas; (2) double cropping existing farmland and (3) using seeds with improved genetics. These along with inputs for improved irrigation and fertilizer inputs resulted in a drastic increase in food production and also resulted in creating jobs not only in the agricultural sector but also in the industrial sector by the creation of lateral facilities such as factories and hydro-electric power stations. South Africa's Comprehensive Rural Development Program has a three pronged strategy – Agrarian transformation, Rural Development and Land Reform. It is in the agrarian transformation strategy that South Africa can look to the Green Revolution in India for learnings. However, while South Africa's agrarian transformation strategy speaks of improved cropping for a variety

of food crops, India's Green Revolution was restricted to food grains only – wheat and cereals – and South Africa should be mindful of this while studying the Green Revolution.

Employment generation: Creating employment in the rural areas came up as a major area of concern in all four country presentations. Amongst those, India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is the initiative that seems to have impressed participants. This was specifically mentioned by respondents both from Brazil and South Africa. The MGNREGS was perhaps one of the new ideas that was presented at the conference as this program has been introduced recently in India. The idea of creating 100 days of work during the agriculture off-season for those dependent on agricultural labour and using these workdays to engage in improving agricultural infrastructure and public assets has the twin benefits of both providing livelihood and improving infrastructure. This program has had two significant impacts – increase in income levels in poor households and wage regulation. Brazil's social protection program involves direct cash transfer to poor households and a program like MGNREGS can be an alternative way of injecting cash into poor households.

Land reform: South Africa is currently putting together a Green Paper on Rural Development and Land Reform and China's land reforms and community farming initiative was interesting to South Africa in this context. South Africa's Green Paper is its rural development strategy and refers to three strategic imperatives – deracialise the rural economy, democratic and equitable allocation and use of land, and instilling production discipline to ensure food security and growth of the agricultural sector. Given that South Africa is seeking to introduce a new approach in dealing with land reform and proposes a new land tenure system which proposes the establishment of agri-villages and Boards, constituted of farmers, farm workers, and farm dwellers residing in that village, to look after the interests of farmers, farm workers and farm dwellers. But as mentioned by the respondent from South Africa, South Africa's land reforms had been thought out prior to the conference and China has contributed ideas to the development of that strategy prior to the conference.

Diversifying rural livelihood: China's non farm livelihood activities in the rural context interested India respondent who felt that it is important to think of non farm livelihoods as part of rural transformation, especially since that while more than 60% of India's population is engaged in agriculture, agriculture contributes only 18% of the country's GDP. While currently this is at the thought level, the respondent felt that this has the potential to feature in India 11th Plan mid-term review. Also, as several speakers at the conference said – there is the need to rethink the notion of rural and not restrict it to agriculture. Rather agricultural

growth is to be seen one part of rural development. Rural livelihoods in India have largely been based in agriculture and this notion is undergoing change. Again while this thinking was prevailing before the conference, according to the respondent, while drawing up the recommendations for the 11th Plan, the rural development ministry might consider the notion of expanding rural livelihoods beyond agriculture.

Social protection and inclusive growth: Both India and South Africa feel that Brazil's Bolsa Familia program is worth exploring for replication as they felt that cash transfer to vulnerable families contributes towards poverty reduction. Both India and South Africa have programs of cash transfer to vulnerable households – widow's pension in the case of India, and South Africa has a cash transfer program for the aged and for school going children. However, in both cases it is not seen as part of rural development but rather as a welfare program. So perhaps, as a South Africa respondent said, there is need to rethink the rural development strategy to include all of these.

B. Policy initiative/agenda or research agenda which is a consequence of or related to the conference

Brazil:

- After the conference the Ministry of Agrarian Development organized a meeting which all conference delegates from Brazil attended. At the meeting, a decision was taken to develop and conduct a survey of institutions involved in Rural Development research in India and China. This is seen as a first step in undertaking research to inform policy. This will be undertaken by the Federal Rural University, Rio de Janeiro. While the specifics of the research are not worked out as yet, the respondent was hopeful that such research could lead to insights on specific policy initiatives as the survey could lead to more in-depth research on specific initiatives.
- The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth intends to conduct a study comparing India's PDS with Brazil's PAA. While this is not directly a consequence of the conference, the conference served as an important avenue for sharing and receiving feedback on the TOR for the study. The intention to conduct the study was made prior to the conference.

South Africa:

- South Africa's Green Paper on Rural Development and Land Reform has been informed by lessons learned during the conference. Specific lessons that have been incorporated are: (1) the notion of people's participation in their own development as is done in India and Brazil through farmers' cooperatives, and (2) the green revolution strategies that were adopted in India.
- The Green Paper also deals with land reforms and the different models in China and Brazil were considered. There is specific interest in China's model, though South Africa would like to understand better the implications for management of irrigation systems in the context of communal landholding. China has moved from a communal farming system to family farming systems with communal landholding. For South Africa, which is a democracy, decisions regarding ownership of irrigation systems in the context of communal landholding with leased family farming will need to be made.
- South Africa is also looking to incorporate Brazil's family farm approach in its Green Paper as the concept of state support to household agriculture is something that South Africa would like to adapt. This will be in line with their agrarian transformation and rural development strategy which includes improved economic infrastructure in the rural areas.
- South Africa also sees potential for use of the conference lessons learned in its growth path for economic development which focuses on inclusive growth and increasing employment opportunities. The respondent felt there were important lessons to be learned from Brazil's Bolsa Familia approach and India's move towards poverty eradication through a variety of programs. Brazil's Bolsa Familia program attempts to reduce short term poverty through direct cash transfers to poor and indigent families on the condition that their children attend school and get vaccinated, thereby increasing human capital among the poor through conditional cash transfers. India has a host of programs aimed at poverty reduction – examples are the PDS, MGNREGS, distribution of food grain at highly subsidized costs, etc. These are seen as examples of inclusive growth.

India:

- India has just finished the mid-term evaluation of its 11th 5-year Plan and planning for the 12th Plan will begin in 2011. The Planning Commission of India is responsible for the development of the plan and as the Planning Commission was among the organizers of the conference, it is highly probable that lessons learned from the conference will inform the 12th Plan. But at the policy level, it is too soon to say if the conference outcomes are likely to directly influence formulation of the 12th Plan.

While respondents could not state which specific lessons could be adapted, the Brazilian zero hunger program was mentioned as a potential program.

- Brazil's cash transfer program as part of its 'zero hunger' policy has the potential to influence India's social security programs, as there is currently a lot of debate within the country on the kind of social security programs that can be implemented in the country. This debate on the efficacy of current programs that are being implemented is conducted at different levels, with the civil society organisations being most active. The debates are also likely to feature in the mid-term review of the Plan which has now been approved by the Parliament of India. The report with findings and recommendations is yet to be released.

China:

- China has an exchange program for developing economies. This is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Commerce. As part of this China receives delegations from different emerging economies. For example, the South African delegation visited China after the conference. This respondent from China regarded this as a direct link with the agenda of South-South Cooperation that was emphasized in the conference. Again, while this is not the direct outcome of the conference, the respondent from China said that the conference had reinforced the relationship.
- There is more interest in gender and biodiversity amongst the research organizations and NGOs after the conference. The Department of Agriculture is going to organize a conference on biodiversity. Mainstreaming gender in biodiversity programmes is an initiative that has been systematized based on inputs received during the conference. The role of women in the agenda of biodiversity and climate change is being formalized and there are agreements drawn up between women's groups and research groups to mainstream gender.

C. Academic/Research Initiatives undertaken as a result of participating in the conference

- The Federal Rural University, Brazil, intends to open research and post doctoral opportunities and positions to students from India, China and South Africa.
- The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, Brazil, will be hosting an academic forum to explore issues of food security and the different frameworks that exist in the four emerging economies.
- The South Africa delegation visited China after the conference and visited their agriculture and land reform programmes.

- Some of the South Africa delegates attended two conferences in Brazil in May, 2010. This was supported by IFAD.
- South Africa has had interaction with IFAD and some of the delegates visited the IFAD Swaziland projects to explore potential for replication in South Africa.
- The policy unit of the Department of Rural Development in South Africa plans to have a monthly planner with monthly meetings on issues related to rural development and land reform. The department has spoken to Brazil's Ministry of Agrarian Development about the possibility of their participation in these monthly meetings to provide inputs on setting up family farms. Brazil has informally agreed and is exploring the possibility of having someone sponsor the visits.
- In South Africa, the Presidency has set targets and asked the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to use the lessons from the conference and put together a plan of action. The Department is working on this now.
- A government delegation from China will be visiting South Africa for the rural economy conference in September, 2010.
- IFAD has a background paper on South-South cooperation that can be shared with the executive board for mobilizing broader support for the initiative. This is in response to a directive from the President of IFAD, and while the conference was limited to four emerging economies, IFAD's plans go beyond the four countries to cover other emerging economies such as Indonesia, Kenya and Egypt.
- Khanya-aicdd from South Africa will be organizing a conference on Poverty and Inequality. Rimisp from Chile and Pradhan from India are two organisations that will be participating in this conference. This organisation is also in contact with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Institute for Poverty and plans to organize a study tour to China. In China, they will be looking at the agriculture extension models.

3.2. Relationships established during the Conference and strengthened after the Conference:

- Dr Yiching Song from China who presented a paper on Gender and Biodiversity in the conference will be chairing the panel on gender, biodiversity and climate change in the gender workshop that the Brazilian government is organizing in August, 2010.
- The participant from the Federal Rural University in Brazil spoke of strengthening of ongoing relationships with India and China. A comparative study of horticulture in emerging economies is initiated in collaboration with China.
- According to the South Africa respondent, South Africa is planning a Rural Youth Service – where 12,000 youth are to be involved in various rural development initiatives. South Africa is impressed with the initiatives in India and China and would like to identify specific programs and groups which the youth may visit for training. While the conference gave a broad overview of the kind of programs in these countries, research is needed to identify the specific areas for training.
- The delegate from the Presidency in South Africa spoke of improved relationships within the country – between the Presidency and the municipalities. In order to strengthen these, they plan to organize national conferences which will bring the representatives from the different municipalities/provinces together.
- China has regular contact with the South African Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. IFAD's technical unit of coordination is working towards setting up coordination between China and the other three countries – India, Brazil and South Africa.

3.3. Adoption of Conference declaration:

- Given the focus on South-South Cooperation in the Declaration, the delegate from the South Africa Presidency feels that there is an urgent need to relook within South Africa at international relations and change policy to reflect this more strongly. Also, in discussions in the Presidency after the conference the need was felt to extend South-South Cooperation beyond rural development and look at incorporating in other aspects such as industrialization, urban development, etc.
- Brazil and China are already involved in South Africa's rural development strategy. They have had exchange programs with South Africa to facilitate

learning and inputs into their Green Paper. The respondent from Brazil spoke of the need to understand the implication of mutual cooperation and spoke of two objectives vis-a-vis the Declaration.

- To develop serious research on the understanding of each country of the different conference themes.
- To study the impact of globalization on each country.

4. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations and recommendations are based on the responses received during the interviews. However, it should be emphasized that the interviewees are a very small sample of the total number of conference participants (11 out of 260) and India and Brazil were underrepresented at the ministerial level.

1. Overall, respondents were still thinking about the conference and felt it was an excellent opportunity for sharing learnings and networking – this was mentioned by all the 11 respondents. They felt that the conference had given them a good overview of the rural development scenario in the different countries. But there is difference in the ways in which countries have moved forward after the conference. Based on the responses received, Brazil and South Africa seem to be following up on the conference more concretely than China and India. None of the India respondents could speak with any certainty about concrete action that has taken place after the conference. They could only speak of potentially influential frameworks. In the case of China, apart from the gender and biodiversity initiative mentioned above, no other conference related actions have yet been initiated and respondents did not yet perceive any direct influence of the conference on their work.
2. The initiatives that were presented at the conference and have stayed with the respondents are – Brazil's Bolsa Familia and zero hunger program, India's MGNREGS and Green Revolution and China's diversification of rural livelihoods to extend beyond agriculture. These were mentioned by almost all the respondents as programs that have the potential for replication.
3. As stated by a member of the International Steering Committee, follow through participation was proposed at two levels – technocratic and ministerial. From the conversations it appeared that post conference there seems to be opportunities to strengthen the linkages between these two processes recognizing that it is still only a few months post conference. Conversations at the ministerial level show that there is some level of

ongoing discussion and follow up however this information has yet to interact with other processes. For example, in South Africa, while the respondent from the NGO felt that nothing was happening at the government/policy level, yet conversations at ministerial level gave a different picture – one of strong policy influence on the Green Paper. Mechanisms to ensure that, where appropriate, relevant information is shared could usefully be explored.

4. All respondents asked for the International Steering Committee (which was established to plan for the conference) to play a more strategic role in the follow up, participants would welcome this and there would be more movement towards follow up actions. While respondents did feel that there is lack of concrete action after the conference, lack of interest was not cited as a reason. Some of the reasons cited by the respondents for lack of post conference action were:
 - No clear mechanisms for follow up are in place. At least four respondents felt the need for someone to take the initiative for follow up actions.
 - The India respondents felt that after the conference, people were busy with their own work and did not have the time to do serious planning. The same was echoed by a respondent from South Africa too.
 - There does not seem to be have been anyone charged with the responsibility for follow up within the countries. One conference delegate felt that there should have been conference participation contracts with commitment to application of learning as one of the main clauses.
 - In South Africa, changes have been taking place which have impacted on the pace of follow through including the resignation of the Director General and further debate over the Green Paper. This latter has impacted on the interaction between civil society and government in South Africa.
 - In India, with the parliament in session and policy makers being busy with tabling the mid-term review report, direct engagement with the conference outcomes has taken a back seat.
5. The International Steering Committee should facilitate the preparation and submission of follow up action plans. IFAD has specifically requested that these plans be submitted¹.

¹ Postscript: after these interviews were conducted, agreement has been reached for a post conference event to be held in South Africa in the latter part of 2010

6. Researchers feel the need for communication networks that will allow them to keep in touch with each other. A post conference Network through LinkedIn² has been established and all conference participants advised. However this needs wider publicity and continued promotion. For example, a respondent from South Africa felt the need for information on potential programmes so he could visit China and India, but was not aware that such a network exists. It would be useful to have smaller discussion forums on specific topics and aggressively publicize the presence of these forums as respondents, especially researchers, felt the need for deeper exploration of specific issues. The issues can be drawn from the different thematic areas presented at the conference.
7. There is need for the countries to designate someone with responsibility for follow up. This suggestion came specifically from the India respondent. The person responsible for the follow up should not be the delegation leaders as they are busy with their own responsibilities. This emerged as the single biggest reason for lack of follow up – the fact that people were too busy. Here again, the International Steering Committee can play a role by bringing the policy makers together either in a teleconference or mid level meeting to discuss action plans.
8. It might be useful to have smaller discussion forums on specific topics and aggressively publicize the presence of these as respondents, especially researchers, felt the need for deeper exploration of different issues.
9. The conference presented a wide range of issues and participants feel the need for seminars on a smaller scale on specific issues. There were a wide range of issues that were covered during the conference and it is now time to start look at more specific issues.
10. As suggested by at least two respondents - form a core group that can directly follow up with the heads of the delegations to keep the energy generated at the conference alive.

² LinkedIn Group: Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies Group 2010

Annex 1: List of Respondents - Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies Post conference evaluation

Delegation leaders

- Yupeng He, Senior Research Fellow, Professor, Division Director, Research Department of Rural Economy (RDRE), Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC), China. Email: heyupeng@drc.gov.cn
- Thozì Gwanya, Director General, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, South Africa. Email: aroesch@ruraldevelopment.gov.za

International Steering Committee/organizers

- Felicity Proctor, Director, Felicity Proctor Consulting, UK. Email: fjp@proctorconsult.org
- C Upendranath, Institute for Human Development, India.

Donors

- Thomas Elhaut, Director Asia and Pacific, IFAD, Italy. Email: t.elhaut@ifad.org

Research/Academic organizations

- John Wilkinson, Professor, Federal Rural University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Email: jhn.wlknsn@gmail.com

NGOs/CSOs

- Darana Souza, Researcher, International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), Brazil. Email: darana.souza@ipc-undp.org
- Yìching Song, Senior Researcher, IFAD Country Presence office in China, China. Email: songyc.ccap@igsnrr.ac.cn
- Ian Goldman, Strategic Advisor, Khanya-aicdd, South Africa. Email: goldman@khanya-aicdd.org; ian@psppd.org.za

Other governmental/sectoral leaders

- S Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, India. Email: profmahendra@gmail.com
- Josephìlda Nhlapo-Hlope, Chief Economist, Policy Coordination and Advisory Services, Presidency, South Africa. Email: josephìlda@po.gov.za

Annex 2: GUIDE FOR POST CONFERENCE INTERVIEWS

Developed by Roberto Iturralde (Rimisp)

Introduction

The India conference appears to have been a great success in terms of the ideas and experiences that were shared during the event, as well as the personal and professional links that developed among policy and research individuals and organizations working for rural development and growth in the emerging economies. After the conference and following the conjoint declaration of New Delhi, several national and international initiatives are being thought, developed and initiated at two tracks: the formal (via foreign relation ministries and governments) and the informal (via gathering and stimulating policy and research communities); being the latter the most interesting one to approach and sustain for DTR/RIMISP purposes.

As an example of these initiatives, IFAD has mandated the Asia Pacific Director to formulate a SS cooperation and learning support program, to assist the four emerging RD policy and research communities (including governments), with an estimate funding of \$1.5 million; this program is to be presented and discussed by the board in September 2010. Also, there are indications that the Brazilian (Rural Development Secretary) and South Africa (RD and Land Reform Ministry) governments are discussing plans and actions. Coordination and implementation role of the declaration in India has passed from the Planning commission to the Rural Development ministry. It is interesting to note another line of non policy influence of the conference, that is in the academic real, basically through substantive or conjoint publications (e.g. conference papers will be published by IFAD and there will be a special edition of the Development Policy Review- UK).

All the previous initiatives and others need to be researched and characterized as traces of potential policy/academic influencing, in order to answer the question of 'to what extent are these initiatives related to the India conference?' and which is the type of influence/impact that the ideas, frameworks and networks initiated in new Delhi are having on the thinking, focus and actions of policy makers?.

As Carden (2009) mentions, research has the capacity to influence policy through 3 key categories: i) broadening policy horizons (e.g. providing new ideas, fostering dialogue), ii) expanding policy capacities (e.g. For assessing and communicating policies, for using and applying research) and iii) improving decision regimes (new and more open laws, policies, programs; using fact-based arguments).

The central objective of the interviews is to identify and characterize the type of influence (following Carden's categories of policy and academic influence), if any, to which the India conference has contributed. Secondly, to describe specific examples of (policy and academic) influence in different contexts. Thirdly, to identify policy initiative seeds or plans following the conference for future tracking, research and further support.

Criteria for targeting interviewees (purposive sample) and the interview process:

- Policy responsibility role: he/she has power (to initiate, propose, modify or approve) on national or subnational RD policies and actions (due to position and decision-making 'level', research reputation, or activity done)
- National representation: we need to have 8-10 names per emerging economy (India, South Africa, Brazil, China) and 1-2 per other policy active country (Eg. Argentina, Russia)
- Organizational representation: Government (national and subnational government/agencies), NGO, research centres & universities, funders/donors, business.
- Sector representation: e.g. agriculture, territorial development, land reform, social development, environment.
- Total of at least 20 interviews. Have additional interviewee names in case some are not able to participate. In the limit, be prepared for a second call if you see it is necessary for something that was missed or if you need details. All interviews should be taped and transcribed for feedback.

Background information on the Interviewee:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Interviewee name: | email/phone: | |
| Position: | Organization: | |
| Date: | Initial time: | End time: |

Questions: (developed as a semi-structured interview in the form of a conversation. Topics should be covered as far as they are relevant to the interviewee and according to his/her context and situation)

Introduction: We are researchers from RIMISP and are aware that you attended the recent Delhi conference on the Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies. We are trying to understand how this conference influenced you in any way so far, and if so how. Would you be willing to share your insights on this?

- Please tell us about what one or several initiatives in which you are involved now that have (somehow) been influenced by the conference, 2 months after it took place?
 - Is there has been any particular analytical or conceptual framework that stood out for you and you are or might be using for your work? (e.g. an specific idea, framework, experience)
 - Is there any policy initiative or agenda on which you are currently working as a consequence of the conference? What is it and why? How may or will the conference inform/influence this work? (Use triad of Carden to probe different categories of influence)
 - What have you undertaken after the conference that was only possible as a result of participating in the conference? What would you have done anyway but is now being done (slightly) differently as a result of the conference?
- Are there any links or contacts made during the conference you are currently pursuing in your work? For what purpose? Please share the name, organization, country.
- Are you familiar with the conference declaration? If so, is there anything from the conference declaration that you are currently taking up in terms of adoption or implementation? What is it and why is this important in your context?
- If you are not pursuing anything as a result of the conference, why do you think this is the case?