

Summary of CSD Outcomes Related to Urban Rural Linkages

“Making urban market facilities accessible to regional and local producers will create urban-rural linkages that could slow rural-to-urban migration, stimulate local economic development, and strengthen food security.”

- Vision Statement from Gerda Verburg,
Chair of the Seventeenth Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development upon
successful conclusion of the Session, 15 May 2009

Direct results of major group and government collaboration during CSD 17 is not only in the Chair’s Vision Statement but found in the negotiated text given below. Other indirect references to access to markets, infrastructure and related issues is found throughout the text.

All the following can be found in PDF format on <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/index.shtml>.

Chairs Text as agreed to on conclusion of CSD 17

A. Agriculture

(d) Develop sustainable agricultural value chains and improve farmers’ and agro-industry enterprises access to and participation in markets. In that context:

(v) Encourage strong rural-urban linkages and partnerships between countryside and communities, to enhance livelihoods and food security; (p. 13)

(vi) As appropriate and in accordance with national conditions, build efficient and effective agricultural marketing institutions, including small-scale market infrastructure, and distribution networks, and enhance the availability of market information to farmers and farmer organizations through the effective use of information and communications technologies;

B. Rural Development

Close economic integration of rural areas with neighbouring urban areas and the creation of rural off-farm employment can narrow rural urban disparities, expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in rural areas. (preamble, p. 15)

(c) Invest in essential infrastructure and services for rural communities. In that context:

(vi) Promote the development of rural organizations such as community driven cooperatives to enhance investment in essential infrastructure and services and recognize the role of urban areas in fostering rural development. (pp. 17-8)

F. Africa

(b) Integrate African farmers and local entrepreneurs into agricultural supply chains. In that context:

(iv) Increase support, from all sources, to the improvement of market infrastructure and market information systems, including the development and strengthening of rural-urban linkages;

(v) Increase efforts to lower barriers and improve infrastructure to create and expand sustainable domestic and regional food markets; (p. 41)

G. Interlinkages, cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation

Revitalizing agriculture and promoting rural development can make an important contribution to eradicating poverty and hunger and to achieving food security as well as to improved health, the empowerment of women and the creation of productive employment opportunities for women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities. Actions are needed to: (from preamble, p. 47)

(g) Promote the role of local authorities in partnership with other major groups to exchange information, build networks and create markets for small farmers, especially women and youth. (p. 48)

(c) Enhance and promote capacity-building efforts and promote transfer of technologies to developing countries In that context:

(i) Implement targeted capacity-building programmes in areas relevant to the thematic cluster, their interlinkages and the cross-cutting issues, in coordination with local, national and regional institutions;

(ii) Strengthen South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and enhance support from the United Nations development system in promoting such cooperation to enhance financial resources, comprehensive capacity-building, exchange of information and know-how and technology transfer; (p. 52)