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Toward inclusive area-based development:

Conceptual framework

João Torrens

FLAGSHIP PROJECT
Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Areas
Workbook on Inclusion

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Presentation

The Working Papers on Inclusion are a serial publication, in digital format, of initial versions of:

- Conceptual and methodological documents;
- Analysis of national or territorial experiences;
- Systematization and learning
- Comparative discussions

The purpose of this series is to share advances, intermediate products and public goods generated in regional, national or hemispheric processes associated with the flagship project Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). They are prepared and published within the framework of that project.

The thematic scope of these Working Papers on Inclusion is related to the four components of the project:

1. Public policies and institutional frameworks for the inclusive and equitable development of agriculture and rural territories.

2. Contributions to the inclusive and equitable dynamization of the territorial economy.
3. Empowerment of groups excluded from the development of the territory.
4. Knowledge management and capacity building for inclusion and equity in rural agricultural and territorial development processes.

The texts presented for discussion can address from different perspectives the issues related to inclusion in the processes of development and territorial management and strengthening of family farming, including among others:

- Institutional frameworks, public policies, and institutional and inter-institutional processes.
- The building of alliances, pacts and national and territorial projects
- Empowerment processes and collective actions of social actors.
- initiatives for the social, economic, and political inclusion of family farms, to boost rural territories.
- Strengthening institutional and organizational capacities.

Working papers may be published by all persons or groups involved in related initiatives, including counterparts in countries and territories. The people who publish their works in this series maintain their intellectual authorship, and are responsible for their contents. They may publish later revised versions in magazines, books or other works, making reference to the initial version. The texts submitted for consideration in this series must conform to the style norms indicated at the end of each issue.

The editorial committee that approves the publication of the notebooks is conformed by:

- Joao Torrens, Leader of flagship project Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories.
- Byron Miranda, IICA's Principal Specialist on Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories.
- Mario Moreno, Coordinator of the Public Policy component.

- Francois Boucher, Coordinator of the Contribution to the Inclusive and Equitable Dynamization of the Territorial Economy component.
- Johana Rodríguez, Coordinator of the Empowerment of Excluded Groups in the Territory component.
- José Arze, Coordinator of the Knowledge Management and Capacity Development component.

The texts can be submitted to the editorial committee through the e-mail of any of its members:

joao.torrens@iica.int, byron.miranda@iica.int, mario.moreno@iica.int, francois.boucher@iica.int, johana.rodri-guez@iica.int, jose.arze@iica.int.

Subsequent communications should be addressed to the coordinator of the knowledge management component, responsible for the editorial coordination of this series.

Introduction

The 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) describes six major challenges facing hemispheric agriculture in that four-year period. One of these strategic challenges underscores the need to create favorable conditions for implementing processes of inclusion that will mainly benefit social groups who live and work in rural areas in various situations of exclusion. Efforts to reduce poverty and inequality, incorporate these excluded groups -in an equitable and sustainable manner- into processes to make agriculture and the rural economy more dynamic, strengthen the quality and density of the rural social fabric in order to enhance its capacity for dialogue, negotiation, consensus and advocacy and improve the well-being of rural populations, are structural requirements in the continent's current rural context.

As part of these institutional changes, IICA has approved the development

of four Flagship Projects, one of which specifically focuses on the topic of "Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories." In this context, IICA is committed to supporting efforts to strengthen the capacities of its Member States in establishing or improving their institutional frameworks and implementing public policies capable of meeting this strategic challenge.

Thus, for IICA to respond in the most appropriate way to the great challenges facing agriculture and rural development in the first decades of the 21st century, in the hemispheric context, it is crucial to update its understanding of the strategic contribution made by rural areas and family farming to the construction of social initiatives based on equitable and sustainable development in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The main purpose of this document is to provide the IICA Offices, national and subnational partner institutions, social and economic organizations,

area-based coordination bodies representing institutional and social stakeholders, networks and research centers with a conceptual framework to provide guidance in addressing issues related to inclusive area-based development.

This document is structured around the following topics: the first point addresses the interconnection between rurality, rural areas and family

farming; the second item aims to develop a conceptualization of family farming, as a rural segment encompassing the social groups who face the highest levels of exclusion; the third point focuses on the analysis of the conflicting dynamics of the exclusion/inclusion movement in agriculture and rural areas, emphasizing the importance of building a new public policy agenda for inclusive development.

I. Rural Areas, Ruralities and Family Farming

Understanding the changes that have occurred in recent decades in the rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean requires the development of new conceptual and methodological models. It demands a new look at the complex processes that deepen the differences in rural areas, mainly with regard to the role of social stakeholders, particularly those engaged in family farming, in the formation of new ruralities linked to a comprehensive concept of national development.

1. The concepts of rural territory, rurality and family farming are interdependent

In contemporary studies of the rural world, family farming, rurality and rural areas are envisaged as interconnected, complementary concepts. The current discussion around these terms implies a new vision of the dynamics and changes taking place in the rural world, given that the new approaches (sustainability, equity, area-based

systems, ecosystem services, etc.) and threats (climate change, social decline, globalization, etc.) have impacted the rural context and family farming. For this reason, it is necessary to adapt the conceptual frameworks and methodologies that guide the actions of institutions and organizations working in these areas and with these social stakeholders.

These three elements - rural territory, rurality and family farming - reflect continuously evolving and changing processes, and cannot be analyzed as a static, unchanging reality. Historically, in modern societies, the place and role of family farming has been progressively transformed. This in turn, has contributed to the redefinition of rurality itself and to the transformation of rural areas, within which this social grouping constitutes an essential social stakeholder. In analytical terms, in the globalized and interconnected world of the 21st century, it is increasingly difficult to isolate family farming from these two concepts. This conceptual

triad is central to the construction of a systemic vision of the current rural context, its social stakeholders and recent changes.

The current approach to rurality and rural areas requires us to understand these concepts as complex and dynamic phenomena, based on historically determined social relations, where intrinsic physical-environmental, social, cultural, economic and political dimensions interact in a specific space.¹ Conceiving rurality from a territorial or area-based perspective² implies changing the image that mechanically associates rural spaces solely with the agricultural dimension, forgetting about the multiplicity of functions associated with rurality and its stakeholders and their contributions to countries' development and well-being.

2. Central elements of the area-based approach

The conceptual legacy that forms the basis of the premises of the conventional rural development paradigm no longer offers an analytical explanation

appropriate to the challenges of our globalized societies and current public policies. It is therefore necessary to build a new vision of rural areas, their dynamics and their stakeholders, demystifying traditional narratives about their significance and replacing them with a contemporary, multidimensional, complex and systemic concept. The change in conceptual model is an important step forward to ensure that the analyses and policy proposals derived from these understandings respond to the strategic challenges facing rural areas in the 21st century. In this sense, the area-based approach emerges as a conceptual and methodological perspective that seeks to throw new light on our understanding of recent changes in rural areas.

The territory as a complex and dynamic system

First of all, rural areas or territories should be understood as complex and dynamic systems for the social, economic and cultural organization of rural spaces, the coordination of their stakeholders and their integration in macro structural processes. Characterizing

1 Referring to the concept of rurality, A. Riella and P. Mascheroni, state: "Nowadays there is a consensus that considers the territory as a social construction resulting from a complex and dynamic reality in permanent transformation, where the physical, socioeconomic and cultural dynamics are combined in a specific space." RIELLA, Alberto and MASCHERONI, Paola. Desigualdades sociales y territorios rurales en Uruguay. **Pampa**, Suplemento Especial Temático, 2011, n° 7, Universidad de la República, Uruguay. p. 39-63. Viewed on July 26, 2016 at: <https://bibliotecavirtual.unl.edu.ar/ojs/index.php/PAMPA/article/view/3203/4769>.

1. IICA (2002). **Nueva Ruralidad. Visión del Territorio en América Latina y el Caribe**. San Jose, IICA, p. 25.

rural areas from a “systems” perspective involves a set of interdependent factors that interact in a given space and whose trajectory depends on the relationships between endogenous and exogenous elements. These systems are “complex and dynamic,” since these relationships evolve in very diverse ways and the results of their future evolution are unpredictable.

The territory, understood as a “*an historically and socially constructed space, defined in cultural terms, institutionally regulated, and in which the efficacy of economic activities is strongly conditioned by relationships of proximity and belonging to that space ...*”³, in combination with the interdependence and complementarity of the various dimensions of rurality, results in a complex, dynamic, living and heterogeneous socio-environmental system. It expresses a set of relationships (historical, environmental, social, economic, political and cultural) that result in the construction of a multidimensional and changing reality, subject to constant change. The different dimensions are synergistically articulated, producing goods and services essential to the reproduction of societies.

Given their interdependent nature, a change within one dimension alters the dynamic configuration of the

system in unpredictable ways. Area-based systems of rural organization are, therefore, multidimensional and change over time. They vary based on the combination of various factors and, in particular, based on the model of social structuring and organization, under the hegemony of the stakeholders that control those relationships. Rural areas reflect vitality, movement, contradictions, disputes, life.

Although socio-economic indicators for rural areas are usually below the national average, they cannot be considered as socially amorphous, uniform, inert, lifeless social spaces. Adopting a fragmented approach that assesses the various aspects of rurality in isolation, as independent components, prevents us from identifying the rich complexity inherent to the interactive connection of the parts, seen as a whole. Thus, the complexity and dynamism of rural areas becomes more evident if we conduct an integrated analysis of the different dimensions they comprise.

From the above it is clear that the territory may be the subject and object of attention for public policies and actions related to local and regional development. The territory is a factor that either constrains or promotes production processes and linkages between stakeholders and sectors, both within and

3 MUCHNIK, J. and D. SAUTIER (1998). *Proposition d'action thématique programmée: systèmes agroalimentaires localisés et construction de territoires*. CIRAD, October 1998.

outside the system. The configuration of each territory is the specific outcome of the historical dynamics and relationships between endogenous and exogenous aspects, provoking in each territory the differentiation of the effects derived from global and national processes. From this perspective, the social construction of a rural territory depends on relationships established historically between internal factors and external conditioning factors that define their context.

Thus, the production activities, structures and organizational initiatives are affected by the intrinsic nature of the territorial spaces. The territory is not only defined by political-social divisions or physical-natural boundaries; instead, being a complex socio-environmental system, it transcends them. The complexity and dynamism generated by these elements, and how they are articulated with the surrounding processes and stakeholders, are attributes of the territory that permeate the economic, commercial, social, cultural and political activities.

The heterogeneity of rural areas

Area-based systems of organization of rural life and the rural economy are heterogeneous, since they are the result of historical and social processes, generated by the interaction of multiple stakeholders who share the space where they live and work in different

ways. Recognizing the heterogeneity of rural areas is the second defining element of the area-based approach. The interaction between institutional, social and private stakeholders erects different, historically determined territorial configurations, that vary according to:

- the ways in which the space is occupied and the use and management of natural resources;
- the organization of social and cultural life;
- economic and productive structures and their hegemonic forms;
- the organization of political and power relationships among interest groups in society;
- the structure of local institutional frameworks;
- the capacity of social forces to form alliances to define the area-based or territorial model of integration into national and regional development processes.

Many factors contribute to define the specificities of area-based configurations, such as:

- the diversity of historical trajectories of area-based organization;
- the variety or limitation of the natural resources available in the ecosystem;
- relationships and models of integration between Nature, society, market and State;
- the greater or lesser multiplicity of

- social stakeholders, their systems of organization and representation, and the different forms of partnership, articulation, agreements, disputes, conflicts of interest and projects;
- models for the integration of economic sectors and activities;
 - their place in the State's development policies and in the private sector initiatives;
 - different types of articulation/opposition of the projects in play.

Different combinations of these elements characterize the rural territory. The heterogeneity of rural territories results from the different ways in which these factors are historically interwoven and how these interactions are processed in a specific scenario. The forms of mediation established between these elements give rise to the distinct features and collective identities of each territory.

For that reason it is often said that territories are social constructions, in other words, they are the result of historical and social processes of interaction among different stakeholders, in which the territory's geographical factors should also be considered, but not deterministically. Physical factors condition the territory's historical and social construction— for example, in the Amazon region or in semi-arid areas, this would imply different forms of local relations and organization. But the differentiation

between territories is fundamentally established by social, economic, cultural, political and environmental mediations. The different forms of articulation of these elements gradually create identities and a sense of belonging among the stakeholders of a particular territory.

Each territory has generic and specific resources. The former are common among many territories, while the latter are differentiators. Specific resources are those derived from the area's physical-biological, socio-cultural and historical characteristics and are valuable (not only in economic terms), as a patrimony of each territory . Specific resources are potentially exploitable, through processes of activation and recognition: activation, as a social process with local stakeholders who share a vision and create a common project; recognition, through the positioning of *know-how* or expertise tied to the territory, giving it identity.

Rurality has many attributes

The third distinctive feature of the area-based approach is that it supersedes the agrarian and agricultural vision, which fundamentally regards rural areas as the *locus* of agriculture, forestry and fishery activities. According to this innovative perspective, rurality cannot be reduced solely to agriculture, nor can it be considered as synonymous

with backwardness⁴, poverty, the past, tradition, decay, isolation,⁵ resistance to change or as lagging behind urban areas. These key ideas seek to counter attitudes that devalue rural spaces and perpetuate discriminatory views that associate only urban areas with “modernity” and “progress.”

Rural spaces fulfill a very wide range of functions, often forgotten or undervalued by these more deterministic and hegemonic concepts. These areas display an array of complementary and interdependent attributes:

- spaces for social organization, expressed in a multiplicity of ways of life and cultural, artistic and symbolic production, in different ways of organizing social life, which foster specific types of social relationships⁶;
- spaces for economic production, with various configurations of material and productive infrastructures that extend beyond food production and encompass other rural economic activities (for example, production of fibers or raw materials to generate energy, tourism, lodging and gastronomic services, crafts, agroindustrial enterprises, road maintenance, construction of productive infrastructure, etc.);
- spaces for sociocultural activities (health, education, social assistance and communication services, festivities, music, poetry, leisure centers, residential settlements etc.) and environmental services (preservation of landscape and natural resources, water production and harvesting, reforestation, carbon capture);
- privileged spaces for relating to Nature, since many local activities depend directly or indirectly on natural elements (conservation of natural resources – especially soil and water, environmental services, water for human, animal, industrial or agricultural use);
- spaces for the construction of citizenship that reaffirm the exercise of democratic rights and create opportunities to contribute to the consolidation and democratization of public spaces;
- privileged spaces for relating to Nature that form the basis of specific worldviews, ancestral knowledge and know-how, symbols and

4 See FAVARETO, Arilson (2007). **Paradigmas do Desenvolvimento Rural em Questão**. São Paulo, FAPESP/IGLU, 220 p.

5 See PIÑEIRO, Diego. Poblaciones y trabajadores rurales en el contexto de transformaciones agrarias. GIARRANA, Norma (compiladora). **¿Una Nueva Ruralidad en América Latina?** Buenos Aires, CLACSO, 2001. p. 284.

6 According to Maria de Nazareth Baudel Wanderley and Arilson Favareto, in IICA (2013). **Concepções da Ruralidade Contemporânea: as singularidades brasileiras**. Serie Desenvolvimento Rural Sustentável n° 21. Brasília, IICA. p. 463.

myths, which emanate from shared experiences and differentiated relationships with ecosystems and natural resources⁷, and embody the wealth and diversity of rural peoples' cultural heritage. Moreover, these spaces are configured in a socio-environmental system that has the potential to provide benefits beyond their spatial boundaries: e.g. mitigation of the effects of natural disasters, reduction of the effects of heat islands in cities, and other ecosystem services.

Thus, according to this analytical perspective, the contribution of these spaces is not limited to agriculture. Indeed, they offer far greater potential and opportunities for a national development strategy and for the comprehensive functioning of societies. For this reason, it is important to review the characteristics traditionally attributed to rural areas and give them new meaning, in line with the findings of contemporary studies and the progress achieved by the new public policies implemented in various countries of the continent.

Furthermore, these attributes are not static, they are strongly interdependent upon each other and they also interact with their environment, thereby

defining a rural area-based identity, in the context of a complex socio-environmental system. Thus, the concept of rurality extends into that of the rural territory, with an identity linked to the stakeholders, their interactions and the physical natural environment. This generates an intra and inter-systemic dynamic, which is distinguishable between territories, and creates a territorial patrimony in which stakeholders can empower themselves.

The new concept of rurality supersedes the “rural versus urban” dichotomy

A fourth characteristic inherent to the area-based approach is the relational concept that emphasizes the interdependence and complementarity between rural and urban spaces. The contemporary view of the new ruralities also implies overcoming the dichotomous view that separates and, indeed, counterposes rural and urban areas, regarding them as two antagonistic worlds, in which rural life should be replaced by the “benefits” of urban life, associated with modernity and progress. This is an antiquated view that assumes a limited potential of rural areas to promote development. The growing channels and

7 These attributes are mentioned by FAVARETO, Arilson (2009). **Por que discutir os sentidos da ruralidade e suas implicações para uma Política of Desenvolvimento for o Brasil Rural?** Brasília, p. 1-2. Available on July 28, 2016 at: <http://sistemas.mda.gov.br/condraf/arquivos/2169821557.pdf>.

flows of rural-urban interactions have eroded this false dividing line, once and for all, establishing new ruralities constructed on the basis of increasingly intense relations between the “countryside” and small urban centers (parishes, districts or towns) located within rural areas. From this more integrated and relational perspective, these urbanized clusters are strongly conditioned by their dependence on the economic, social and cultural activities carried out in their surrounding communities.

Since urban life in small towns is conditioned more significantly by activities that take place in rural areas, it is necessary to reconsider the statistics on urbanization, taking into account other criteria for defining rural and urban populations. In the case of Brazil, the study *“Rethinking the concept of rurality in Brazil: implications for public policies”*, promoted by the Permanent Forum on Sustainable Rural Development, coordinated by the IICA Office in Brazil, using more dynamic criteria and not solely those of geographic location, concludes that in 2010 Brazil’s rural dwellers accounted for approximately 36.9%⁸ of

the population and not the 15.69% stated in official figures of the IBGE⁹.

For that same reason, conducting studies using this type of approach and presenting a new typology of rural areas is important in order to reappraise the spatial, demographic, social and economic importance of these areas. Replicating the analyses based on this concept would allow us to build up a picture different from the one validated by official statistics, revealing the true diversity and importance of rural spaces for society and development. This different view of rural areas has implications for the design and implementation of public policies that enhance the capacity to generate synergies and complementarities between these connections.

Efforts to strengthen rural areas, understood from this broader perspective, also imply the need to consolidate, with the support of appropriate public policies, the “pull factors”, i.e. local conditions that can improve rural well-being, even attracting the return of social groups who have migrated to cities and display elements more characteristic of urbanization. The planned provision of

8 Based on data presented by the project coordinators at the 52nd Congress of SOBER, held in Goiânia, in July 2014. Available on July 27, 2016 at: <http://itarget.com.br/newclients/sober.org.br/2014/52congresso/pdf/heterogeneidade.pdf>.

9 See the official statistics on rural population in Brazil, on the IBGE web site. Available on July 27, 2016 at: <http://www.censo2010.ibge.gov.br/sinopse/index.php?dados=8>.

public amenities of quality (universities or technical colleges, hospitals or specialized health centers, public facilities for treatment of solid urban waste, collection centers and marketing of products, etc.) helps to reduce asymmetries between these spaces. One of the advantages of the area-based approach is that public investments are programmed at the territorial level. The implementation of these services in each municipality would greatly increase the governmental investment to guarantee these rights to the population.

In that sense, the construction of cross-sectoral public policies is decisive for creating more attractive conditions in rural areas, so that different segments of the rural population have an interest in remaining there, living and working in a differentiated context. Overcoming situations of abandonment or neglect in rural areas also involves efforts to coordinate poverty reduction, strengthen social protection networks and guarantee social rights through policies that encourage the creation and expansion of opportunities for productive and economic inclusion - especially for segments of the rural population excluded from

access to those rights, goods and public amenities. These initiatives must be complemented and accompanied by processes to strengthen the capabilities, autonomy, empowerment and leadership of the social stakeholders, so that they can more effectively influence policy decisions in society.

Rural areas as State planning and management units

The application of an area-based approach to the design of State policies generates a fifth element: the delimitation of rural areas as planning and management units for public policies on rural development.¹⁰ This perspective seeks to facilitate the integration and coordination of State interventions, so that government institutions can discuss and address the demands identified collectively by local stakeholders. It is, therefore, a space for adapting national strategies and policies to the diverse conditions found in rural areas of a given country, ensuring a more adequate provision of public policies.

The area-based approach to development prioritizes the creation of

10 In the specific case of Chile, for example, the Ministry of Social Development, states that “*planning territories are subsets of the regional territory, whose specific characteristics make them recognizable as units subject to comprehensive planning, having regard to the presence of diverse homogeneities and diversities, resulting in a recognizable territory, with a complexity that transcends the sectoral vision*”. See MIDEPLAN (2005). **Identificación de Territorios para la Planificación y Gestión del Desarrollo**. Cuaderno 4. Santiago de Chile, p. 47. Available on July 27, 2016 at: <http://www.ministeriodesarrollosocial.gob.cl/btca/txtcompleto/mideplan/cuad4-territ-planif.gest.des.pdf>.

interinstitutional and cross-sectoral processes and mechanisms that promote the establishment of area-based governance bodies to ensure the legitimate and representative participation of governmental institutions, at the different levels, and of civil society and private sector organizations. Under this approach, a structural action in the area of education, for example, should be complemented and articulated with the area-based projects of other social areas, and with cultural, economic and environmental initiatives. The creation of these mechanisms seeks to respond more efficiently to problems with multidimensional roots that have not been resolved through sectoral and fragmented actions.

Another basic aspect of the area-based approach is related to the need to integrate the different scales of development. Criticisms of the limitations of *top-down* processes, or of the initiatives espoused by various international organizations to promote area-based development, make it necessary to review these premises and to find ways of integrating the different scales of development. The articulation of these scales (from the community level to the national or regional level) is key to the success of area-based initiatives.

However, it is also important to emphasize that the area-based approach is not limited to the “territorialization” of public policies, i.e., the use of the territory as a kind of platform for the

coordinated delivery of government actions. For a more solid implementation of this approach, it is vital that citizens participate in area-based governance processes. This involves promoting the social leadership of local stakeholders in the different stages of area-based planning and social management processes. The empowerment of stakeholders and collective efforts to enhance the territory’s specific resources are key actions that can be encouraged with appropriate interventions. Without the active participation and political involvement of government bodies and civil society organizations in this process, the impact of actions aimed at consolidating an area-based development strategy becomes limited.

The creation of area-based spaces for interinstitutional coordination and mediation between national and/or subnational sectoral policies with the interests and demands of local stakeholders, emerges as an alternative that allows for a more appropriate delivery of these actions in the territory, with a broader temporal and spatial perspective. *Spatial*, because in the great majority of countries the municipal scale is very restricted in terms of planning large-scale development initiatives, while the subnational scale may be too large or may hinder direct citizen participation in the social management of development. *Temporal*, because the actions implemented with the support of public policies should have a strategic horizon, based on defined lines of

action agreed through consensus with the territory's social and institutional stakeholders, with a medium and long term vision that makes it possible to visualize and make substantive changes. This spatial-temporal perspective underpins the bi-functional nature of the territory, as the object and subject of development actions.

In complementary fashion, actions to support rural area must also be planned from a multidimensional perspective, precisely to overcome the notion that "rural" is limited to the agricultural sector. The development of systemic projects, based on a comprehensive vision of the numerous opportunities opened up by area-based actions, emerges as one of the central challenges of this process. Implementing area-based actions of a multidimensional nature requires the State to create interinstitutional arrangements and strengthen the organizational and human capabilities needed for the comprehensive implementation of these initiatives.

The diversity of social subjects that comprise rurality

Finally, in line with the area-based approach, is it important to recognize that family farming, as a collective political stakeholder, generally plays a central political role in the great majority of area-based rural organization systems. However, to be consistent with the premises that expand the concept of

rurality, it is necessary to recognize the existence of a multiplicity of subjects with different interests. In this sense, family farming, as the numerically dominant social stakeholder, must forge partnerships with other social and economic groups around common strategic goals.

If rurality is not limited to agriculture, and affects other social stakeholders (including populations who live and work in small urban centers of predominantly rural municipalities, and those who live in medium-sized towns and large cities), it is essential to involve them in the discussion of future projects to create the rural context we desire for the new generations. The construction of area-based projects that comprehensively respond to the ecological, social, economic, political and cultural aspects of a particular country is a challenge that can only be met by using the area-based approach, in combination with other complementary perspectives.

Rural areas in which the socio-economic context is dominated by family farming, as the collective stakeholder that conditions the structure of social relationships or, as recently termed, the area-based family farming systems and the subjects that comprise them, need to redefine their role in society and in development processes. Therefore, the new forms of rurality that we wish to develop in the future must be negotiated, from now on, by all local stakeholders, in order to achieve an

area-based agreement approved by the social, economic and political forces that would sustain this strategy.

At present, different models for configuring area-based systems of rural organization are under construction, with diverse forms of coexistence and articulation between these systems within a same space. Area-based systems in which capitalized family farming is inserted into the dynamics of agroindustrial firms, reveal a type of coexistence and functionality that fundamentally benefits the hegemonic agro-exporting model. A more diversified area-based family farming system contributes to food and nutritional security and to the activation of inclusive economic processes based on solidarity. Each “model” essentially translates into a unique project of rurality (and of society), that serves the interests of different groups. These models are internally combined, since they do not occur in a “pure”, isolated and independent manner. At the same time, they may collaborate or compete with each other, and may ultimately challenge the hegemonic nature of the processes to build the environmental, social and economic policies and cultural configurations of area-based rural systems.

Thus, in this complex scenario, the organizations that represent the multiple interests of family farming play a decisive role in extending the processes of dialogue and negotiation to include different segments of society interested in discussing the impacts of the current hegemonic model and formulating a sustainable, equitable and fair agenda for the future of agriculture and rural areas, as well as for those rural populations who live and work in conditions of greatest exclusion. Moreover, from the macro point of view, consolidating these processes requires the creation of a political-institutional, social and economic environment capable of linking them with the national development strategy.

3. The intrinsic diversity of rural areas, rurality and family farming

Just as family farming is reflected in different types of socioeconomic organization and has different ways of relating to ecosystems and natural resources, ruralities and rural areas are also constituted by heterogeneous and pluralist realities.¹¹ Diversity is an intrinsic

11 On this issue, a previous publication by the Institute states: “Each territory expresses its own process of historical construction and is difficult to reproduce in other socio-geographic spaces or at other times. Rurality has historical roots, that are changing, multidimensional and prolonged; in it are reflected specific trajectories that translate into area-based forms of development, that are organized, disorganized and reorganized thanks to the cultural energy of the numerous and heterogeneous local societies.” See IICA (2005). *Calidad Social y Desarrollo Sostenible de los Territorios Rurales*. San Jose, IICA. p. 17.

hallmark of these three processes and constitutes an essential element of the debate about its characteristics and attributes. At the same time, these concepts translate into multidimensional visions that seek to explain, from an integrated and systemic perspective, the significant structural changes that have transformed the rural spaces of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Given its growing social, economic, cultural and environmental importance in national development processes, family farming is historically regarded as a social subject of fundamental importance for the design and development of rural social spaces. These rural configurations result from a trajectory of convergence and conflicts of interest among the different stakeholders present in a particular social space. Through processes involving both coalitions and disputes, distinct rural territories gradually emerge, triggering significant institutional changes in their dynamics.¹² Nowadays, rural spaces are being incorporated in different ways into the national development process, forming distinctive rural areas that differ from each other, due to the way in which the institutional, economic and social stakeholders historically address and link the different aspects of rurality.

This diversity has transcended the “strict” limits of the rural milieu, so that rurality can no longer be explained without considering its links with urban dynamics -economic, social and political. This means that a particular territory can only be defined through a comprehensive understanding of rural and urban spaces. With rare exceptions (in territories comprised predominantly of rural businesses, extensive agriculture, mining, etc.), family farming tends to be the main stakeholder - or a major stakeholder - in a context in which a set of social and economic relationships define the structural configuration of a certain territory.

4. The diversity of ruralities under construction and their relationship with social projects

The configuration of ruralities and territorialities, in continuous construction and conflict, reveals movements and trends associated with projected models of society and future development. The typologies of rural spaces may vary from one country to another, according to their socioeconomic formation. However, the types identified will basically have a direct link with certain

12 See RIMISP (2015). *Conceptualizando la Diversidad Espacial en el Desarrollo Rural Latinoamericano: Estructuras, Instituciones y Coaliciones*. Documento n° 164. Available on July 27, 2016 at: http://rimisp.org/wp-content/files_mf/1446749000164_ConceptualizandoDiversidadEspacialBerdegue.pdf.

recent trends: for example, the predominance of spaces strongly influenced by area-based family farming systems or by the agroindustrial business sector, in contrast to rural areas where the *latifundio* or other large farms define local land use systems, or the different forms of coexistence and articulation between these different systems of organizing rural life and rural production within a same space. The list of types is considerably broader and, within each generic type, significant differences may be found (for example, ruralities dominated by more dynamic market-oriented forms of family farming, with a high demand for technology and public services, in contrast with other area-based rural systems in which a more impoverished and vulnerable family farming is prevalent). But the important point is that this diversity of arrangements expresses and describes different projects for the construction of ruralities of the future, which in turn reflect different models of society. Thus, creating a favorable social, economic and institutional context is an essential step for the strategic incorporation of ruralities and family farming into an inclusive and sustainable development model.

It is clear that the combination of resources, sectors, stakeholders and linkages in each rural area produces

a unique, dynamic object-subject, derived from changing contexts and relationships between stakeholders/sectors. However, it is possible to identify specific traits or features of the area that can be activated. The methodology of Territorial Activation based on a Localized Agrifood Systems Approach (AT-SIAL)¹³, created by IICA/CIRAD in the last three years, assists in the identification of a territory's specific resources which, through an innovative organization of rural agroindustrial production units and related activities (crafts or "alternative tourism", for example), provide a basis for area-based management.

5. The urgency of a new generation of public policies

One of the main lessons learned in recent years underscores the need to design and implement a new generation of public policies, adapted to the diverse configurations in rural areas and in family farming. Policies designed under a universal and standardized model seldom address social and regional specificities, and end up excluding certain groups or areas from the benefits expected from government actions. Diverse and heterogeneous social segments and social spaces require

13 See BOUCHER, F. and REYES, J. A. (2013). *Guía Metodológica of Activación Territorial con Enfoque de Sistemas Agroalimentarios Localizados (AT-SIAL)*. Mexico, IICA/CIRAD, 115 p.

differentiated public policies so that they can be appropriately included in the dynamics of development. Recognizing social and area-based diversity, defining territories as preferential focal points for the contextualization of public policies and giving value to the active participation of local stakeholders are essential prerequisites for adapting public policies. Therefore, to ensure greater efficacy in State planning and management processes, a necessary institutional innovation is the creation and consolidation of democratic mechanisms for social management. These governance bodies encourage civic participation by different area-based stakeholders in the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and projects executed in each territory.

This new look at public policies implies creating institutional frameworks that articulate sectoral, with cross-sectoral and interinstitutional aspects, addressing family farming as a subject of law in the State's various spheres

of action. Thus, to overcome the limitations and errors of traditional interventions by government institutions, it is necessary to create a new inter-institutional architecture that values the area-based approach and the cross-sectoral perspective, facilitating integration between family farming, rurality and rural areas.

Complementarily, it is not sufficient for the State to establish a new generation of decentralized public policies. Simultaneously, a process is required to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the different stakeholders of each rural area, in order to consolidate and enhance an institutional environment that promotes coordination, negotiation and the construction of common and strategic projects and actions. Through the implementation of its public policies, the State must promote the construction of spaces to guide collective actions with an area-based approach, so that local governance becomes an essential mechanism for innovation processes.

II. Family Farming in Latin America and the Caribbean

Given that different forms of territorial, sociocultural, economic, political and institutional exclusion in rural areas are expressed primarily among the most vulnerable sectors of family agriculture, it is important that we comprehensively address, in this guiding document, the notion of family farming adopted by the Flagship Project Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories. Thus, the analytical category of family farming must be linked to advances in our knowledge of other topics, such as area-based development and rurality.

1. Family farming as an analytical category

Family farming is an analytical category that organizes ideas, expresses collective practices, integrates area-based processes and represents historical social projects that emanate from the real lives of rural men and women. The emergence of this analytical category

constitutes progress in conceptual terms, since it has enabled us to transcend the limited criterion of farm size, introducing a social component into the debate, based on the role of family organization and on the differentiation of farming and farmers, according to a broader set of criteria. This renewed concept serves to describe what is still sometimes termed “small and medium-scale agriculture”, “small and medium agriculture”, “small-scale rural production”, among other reductive notions. The main criticism leveled against these terms is that they do not take into account the numerous aspects and functions of family farming in the current context of modern societies, in an era of globalization.

The emergence and growing use of family agriculture as a category in government programs, in the reconstruction of collective identities promoted by social organizations (and by extension, in the definition of the territory), in research and academic

studies, and in the official documents of international cooperation agencies, has resulted in greater visibility and social recognition of the importance of rural producer groups who live and work within a family-based system of organization. In Latin America and the Caribbean, nearly 60 million people work on 17 million family-operated farms, accounting for 80% of the total number of farms in the region.¹⁴

2. Conceptualizing family farming

Family farming represents a form of organization of rural life and rural production. It is responsible for providing most of the food consumed in the countries of the American hemisphere, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Family farming is also recognized for its decisive contribution to the management and conservation of natural resources (for example, protecting agro-biodiversity), preserving the diversity of cultural heritage, energizing other sectors of the national economy, producing fibers and raw materials to generate renewable energy, and strengthening the cohesion and solidarity of the social fabric to facilitate the social management of rural areas. Thus, in addition to being mainly

responsible for food and nutritional security, family farming is also involved in the overall process to build an inclusive and sustainable development strategy. Given these unique characteristics, countries should encourage the implementation and consolidation of public policies that enhance family farming's many contributions to the overall development of rural areas and societies.

3. Family farming is area-based

Family farming is not simply an individual production unit, or the sum of production units in a given area. The diversity of family farming, together with other elements of the socio-environmental system (social stakeholders, culture, history, natural resources, institutional framework, etc.), shape and mold rural areas. At the same time, in line with a systemic vision, the "family agricultures" existing in a particular area are also defined by, and based on, the specificity of territorial dynamics and their relationships with other stakeholders who share the same space. Strengthening the role of "family agricultures" in society requires mechanisms and actions that promote partnerships, complementarities and

14 According to ECLAC/FAO/IICA (2015). *Newsletter ECLAC-FAO-IICA. Risk Management in Family Agriculture in LAC*. N° 4, p. 3-4. Available on July 27, 2016 at: <http://www.iica.int/sites/default/files/publications/files/2015/b3705e.pdf>.

cooperation between different segments, based on a strategic vision that seeks to energize and consolidate the territory. Collective action is the factor that unifies and organizes different stakeholders and activities of social management of rural areas, and family farming has the potential to be an essential part of that process.

4. Family farming creates area-based systems of rural organization

Ruralities constructed through the interaction of family farming with the context and with other institutional, social and private stakeholders in their milieu, help to create an array of area-based rural organization systems. In this regard, it is possible to identify area-based family farming systems¹⁵, created on the basis of a historical trajectory of links and mediations with the institutional, socio-cultural, economic and natural environment in which they are inserted. While it is necessary to develop a typology of these area-based family farming systems, it is possible to make a preliminary identification based on their specialized production of various commodities for the market (vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy, coffee, cocoa, meat, sugar cane, etc.),

on the concentration of family-based agroindustrial production, on the linkages between family production and urban-industrial activities, and on the combination of agricultural activities with rural tourism, etc. These specialized area-based spaces form economic clusters which are consistent with a vision of territorial cohesion, stakeholders' confidence and a project for development with collective identity. However, in developing this typology it is also important to characterize area-based systems in which less dynamic processes predominate, those constituted by a majority of more impoverished family farmers, excluded from development opportunities, subject to local power relations and with less capacity for organization and political influence.

5. Heterogeneity of family farming

Family farming encompasses a diversity of life styles, approaches to organizing economic and production activities, and ways of relating to local ecosystems and natural resources. This multiplicity of socioeconomic, cultural and environmental situations affects all groups, from the more capitalized segments of family farming to the

15 Regarding this new concept that is currently in the development phase, refer to SAMPER, Mario (2015). *Sistemas territoriales de agricultura familiar: sinergias entre desarrollo territorial y fortalecimiento de las agriculturas familiares*. SiGET, Fascículos Conceptuales N° 1, 47 p.

excluded and impoverished segments, whose common feature is the fact that they organize different productive and social processes under a family-based system. Therefore, “family farming” as a category transcends the conceptual limitations of standardized models, which tend to eliminate internal differences between these producers, associating them exclusively either with the “rural poor” or with market-oriented sectors. This concept recognizes their heterogeneity and their varied contributions to the creation or consolidation of a platform to boost the equitable development of rural areas.

The area-based forms of organization of family farming practiced in the Amazon region are very different from those employed by this category of farmers in the Andean region, though both are classified as family agriculture. Moreover, the differences are not exclusively associated with environmental factors, since social and cultural background play an important role in this differentiation. Family farming also encompasses producers who, due to limited access to assets, goods or services, focus mainly on subsistence farming, along with more capitalized farmers whose production is market oriented, or even exported abroad. In addition to farmers directly involved in food production, family agriculture encompasses family-based production of raw materials for the industrial sectors (textiles, leather, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, energy and timber). This

broad category also includes landless peasant farmers (or those with small plots), those resettled under Agrarian Reform processes or family farmers expelled from their land to make way for the construction of large public infrastructure works, particularly hydroelectric plants. Nor is the use of technology appropriate as a form of generic differentiation: family farmers who use more rudimentary farming techniques, based on agro-ecological or organic methods, and those who adopt more modern production technologies - even though these may result in different productivity rates, and generate greater employment and incomes - all essentially maintain their status as components of diverse family farming. This diversity includes, at the same time, peasant, indigenous, extractive, Afrodescendant farming; fisheries, subsistence, commercial or entrepreneurial agriculture.

6. Multidimensionality and multifunctionality of family farming

The concept of family farming presupposes a multidimensional vision, given its diverse attributes and its different roles in the development of societies. Although the economic dimension plays a crucial role in processes to galvanize the rural economy (agricultural and non-agricultural) and the national economy, the importance of family farming is not limited to this

contribution. Therefore, it cannot be explained solely in economic and productive terms, no matter how great its role in national development or in processes to eliminate poverty and inequality.

Importance of the economic dimension

Family farming's most widely recognized function is the production of goods (agricultural, fishery and forest products, fibers, raw materials to power alternative energy sources, etc.) and services. The economic importance of family farming resides in its "collective nature", as an articulator of small production units that integrate and form area-based production systems. The specificity, diversification, differentiation and cultural roots of the products and goods produced by family farming give them a specific identity and a unique social value. Family farming may form an essential part of an area's specific resources, which can be activated through collective area-based action. Moreover, important aspects of the economic roles performed by family farming in national societies are reflected in the enormous contingent of workers employed directly and indirectly in agricultural activities and in other rural jobs (mechanization, planting and harvesting, land clearing and cultural practices, agro-industrialization, transportation, collection, education, health, communication, etc.),

with their capacity to generate foreign exchange and income in different sectors of the economy and their contribution to the gross value of agricultural output and to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Similarly, in many countries, family farming has made a strategic contribution to national objectives such as the economic activation of rural areas, diversification of agricultural production to guarantee food and nutritional security, and poverty reduction.

Importance of the environmental dimension

Given that the abovementioned economic functions unfold in continuous interaction with local ecosystems and natural resources and within a specific social, cultural and political context, family farming also provides other benefits to society. From the ecological point of view, it conserves the diversity of ecosystems, landscapes and natural resources, and is considered the guardian of soils, water, agrobiodiversity, genetic heritage, flora and fauna. In many cases, the fundamental principles of its worldview shape different forms of sustainable management of the environment, use of renewable resources and relationship with Nature. However, the invaluable activities associated with environmental protection services provided to the nation have no commercial value, even though national and international societies can

enjoy the social benefits afforded by the continuous reproduction of these “natural” patrimonies.

Importance of the cultural dimension

From a cultural perspective, family farming has numerous attributes: the preservation of ancestral knowledge and know-how derived from experiences of life, work and relationships with Nature and the cosmos; preservation of diverse ways of life with specific identities and forms of expression¹⁶ and of numerous cultural and artistic manifestations (music, literature, poetry, dance, crafts); the wealth of regional gastronomy and the conservation of rural buildings and the traditional tools of rural life, etc. This contributes to the diversity of cultural and historical heritage that represents the ways of life or lifestyles that characterize each specific group and, at the same time, shapes the profile of each territory.

Importance of the social dimension

The social importance of family farming is associated with its role in the formation and consolidation of the complex

social fabric of rural areas, based especially on the construction of community and local organizations, articulated in area-based networks that foster social cohesion. Since family farming is a central element in the construction of the rural territory as a constantly changing social space, it also contributes to the formation of new social relationships within families and rural communities, placing value on equity (with emphasis on recognizing the important role of women and youth), cooperation and solidarity, citizen participation, collective identity, and the ethical principles and values arising from its social practices (sustainability, respect for diversity, justice, responsibility, tolerance, etc.). The historical result of these processes creates territories with identity, i.e. socially constructed rural spaces that recognize themselves internally, based on their own sense of belonging and territorial cohesion, which, to some extent, differentiates them from other territories in their milieu.

Importance of the political-institutional dimension

The organizational base linked to the interests of family farming plays a key

16 Maria Nazareth B. Wanderley, referring to the text of Bernard Kayser (*La renaissance rurale: sociologie des campagnes du monde occidental*, of 1990), defines rural as “a particular way of using space and of social life.” She goes on to emphasize that rural spaces must be understood, “at the same time, as a physical space (reference to occupation of the territory and its symbols), a place to live (specificities of the way of life and identity) and the place from where the world is seen and experienced (the citizenship of the rural man and his insertion in the broadest spheres of society)” [free translation]. See WANDERLEY, M. N. B. (2000). *A emergência de uma nova ruralidade nas sociedades modernas avançadas – o “rural” como espaço singular e ator coletivo*. *Estudos Sociedade e Agricultura*, n° 15, Rio de Janeiro, p. 87-145.

role in democratizing the State and expanding access to public policies. The capacity of family farming organizations to engage in dialogue and negotiation, and to propose different action plans that address their immediate demands and strategic needs, determines their possibilities of influencing the definition of sectoral or cross-sectoral policies. At the same time, it is necessary to highlight the importance of family farming in the formation of interinstitutional bodies responsible for area-based governance and for social management of public policies (Councils, Associations, Territorial Action Groups, Management Nodes, Forums, etc.). The emergence of these new area-based institutions for civic participation reflects the profound contribution made by family farming to democratic advances in the State and its increased access to rights.

In order to consolidate the processes of democratization of the State, society and rural territories, strategic area-based agreements are of particular interest to family farming, especially in countries that have experienced armed conflicts that have left deep scars on their social relationships, and affected the trust and cohesion of their territories. In these situations, peace accords are essential for restoring public security to these areas and their populations and are necessary to reestablish the rules of social coexistence.

Importance of the spatial dimension

Finally, but no less important, is the spatial dimension, where family farming contributes to the differentiated occupation of rural spaces. The characteristics of the land use model that underpins this type of spatial occupation differ from the typical model created by agricultural modernization. Family-based forms of occupation imply the replication of a living, dynamic, pluralistic, participatory rural space, reflected in human faces that have dignity, hope, peace and happiness.

7. Family farming is a strategic stakeholder in the construction of ruralities

Family farming plays an important role in the great majority of rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean. In general terms, because of its creative potential to drive the development of all sectors within a territory, family farming should be considered a priority factor in area-based policies and initiatives. However, to transcend the sectoral approach, it is essential to articulate proposals capable of uniting this category with other social segments interested in, and committed to, strategic projects capable of leveraging innovative, dynamic and inclusive processes in the territory. Thus, to comprehensively address the multiple strategic needs in rural areas, negotiated and

agreed by the stakeholders involved in democratic mechanisms of area-based governance, family farming organizations must share their proposals with those of other sectors of society in these mediation spaces, seeking to forge partnerships that benefit the equitable development and well-being of their populations. Making rural areas more dynamic depends, among other factors, on the capacity of family farming to promote collective area-based actions with stakeholders linked to other activities, with whom they share a future vision and common goals.

Family farming is a collective stakeholder of strategic importance in the social construction of ruralities. In some cases it has assumed a leading role in driving these processes forward, while in other situations it has acted as a social force that mobilizes resistance to hegemonic interests or other forces that in some way threaten the replication of socioeconomic forms of area-based organization (defense of the territory). In this sense, family farming contributes to the construction of the social fabric in rural areas.

8. The growing interest in family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean

The growing recognition of the importance of family farming for the functioning of societies and the development of Latin American and Ca-

ribbean countries is associated with various complementary factors, in which the contribution of this social stakeholder fulfills important objectives and roles, namely: (i) meeting growing demand for production of healthy foods for the world, contributing to food and nutritional security and national well-being; (ii) reducing the factors that reproduce poverty, exclusion and social inequality; (iii) mitigating the effects of climate change in agriculture and the rural milieu, together with its capacity for recovery, resistance and adaptation to adverse environmental phenomena; (iv) providing environmental or ecosystem services based on agrobiodiversity conservation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; (v) management and sustainable use of natural resources, which give value to environmental resources; (vi) perpetuating diverse cultural heritages and ways of life that have a profound relationship with Nature.

The overall importance of strategic topics, such as sustainability, inclusion and social participation, has persuaded governments of the need to design and incorporate into their agendas public policies that invigorate rural areas and promote improvements in the living standards of family farmers, while at the same time establishing new relationships between the environment, the economy and society. Therefore, the creation of a favorable institutional environment and macroeconomic

policies that support the equitable and sustainable development of family farming and rural areas, associated with a process of social organization among local stakeholders, are essential for preserving the diversity of family farming and reaffirming the recognition of its importance in achieving a just and inclusive society.

9. Family farming as part of the solution for the future of humanity and life on the planet

The analyses presented in this section of the document highlight the specific importance of family farming and its roles in building the new ruralities,

rural areas and, more generally, in national development projects and equitable and sustainable models of structuring modern societies. Thus, in the context of the current global challenges, family farming is part of the solution for the future of humanity and life on the planet, and its organizations are directly committed to overcoming those challenges. Family farming cannot be treated simplistically, as synonymous with poverty, backwardness or vulnerability. Its many attributes and functions in society confer upon this rural social category a strategic role in helping to address the structural challenges of the modern world, particularly those associated with eliminating inequalities and inequities in the different spheres of social life.

III. *The Dynamics of Exclusion/ Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories*

The final part of this document aims to analyze inclusion as a process that guarantees all citizens the full exercise of their rights and equality of opportunities, facilitating their access to assets, goods and services, without any type of disadvantage, understanding that these inclusive initiatives fall within the framework of the contradictory dynamics of exclusion/inclusion, in which these two processes are intertwined and constantly redefined.

1. The notion of exclusion: characteristics and limitations

In general terms, the notion of exclusion described in various institutional

and academic documents has been used to designate a very wide range of situations involving scarcity, discrimination, subservience, vulnerability, intolerance, lack of access to rights, goods and services, absence of opportunities and freedoms and lack of representation, encompassing material and immaterial situations.¹⁷ These forms of exclusion are also expressed in barriers that limit access to financing, insurance or markets, and in low prices for agricultural products. They are also expressed in the limited availability and/or poor quality of public services (education, health, housing, energy¹⁸, sanitation, water¹⁹ and drainage systems²⁰, roads, social protection, etc.), in forced migration due to lack of opportunities, and in low

17 ESCOREL, S. (1999). *Vidas ao léu: trajetórias de exclusão social*. Rio de Janeiro, Fiocruz.

18 Honduras and Guatemala are the Latin American countries with the least access to electricity services in rural households: 60.5% (2010) and 68% (2006), respectively, according to ECLAC figures (http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/WEB_CEPALSTAT/Portada.asp).

19 According to ECLAC statistics, the countries with the lowest indicators in terms of access to water in rural households, in 2014, were the Dominican Republic (56.4%), Ecuador (67.5%) and Colombia (71.4%).

20 According to ECLAC, the percentage of rural households with drainage services in Guatemala was 15.4% (2006); in Honduras, 25.3% (2010); in Brazil, 35.3% (2014); and Dominican Republic, 46% (2014), revealing the urgency of ensuring universal access to these services.

organizational capacity and lack of influence in decision-making. Similarly, they are reflected in various forms of prejudice and intolerance, in unemployment and different types of exploitative work - sometimes analogous to slavery - in the devaluation of ancestral knowledge, and in the loss of cultural identity, etc.

According to these definitions, the types of exclusion experienced in rural areas are not restricted to situations related to monetary poverty (as defined by income)²¹, or to forms of injustice or hardship. Nor are they limited to subjective manifestations of suffering. Exclusion is a notion that implies an intrinsic ambiguity that ultimately reflects the diverse and complex nature of its constituent processes. This observation is important to better understand the extent of the problem and its diffuse, fluid²² or “blurred” nature.²³

This notion therefore affects social groups and individuals with different profiles, who live in various objective

conditions of exclusion and suffer very heterogeneous subjective pressures. Consequently, they represent an analytical category comprised of extremely different social groups. This feature, implicit to the notion of exclusion, makes it difficult to capture the diversity of life experiences, backgrounds and projects for the future of each of these different social groups²⁴.

In this sense, “the excluded” encompass a broad spectrum of social groups, which have traditionally been addressed as specific groups in conditions of vulnerability. However, as a result of economic and social changes in recent decades, this analysis has been broadened to include far more diverse and numerous population groups. The expansion of the category of excluded subjects is reflected in changes in the design of public policies, both economic and social, which place a high value on the redistribution of incomes and assets. Accordingly, inclusion policies have focused mainly on actions to address widespread poverty and

21 GUSTÁ, Ana Laura Rodríguez (2008). Políticas de Innovación para la Inclusión Social: algunas consideraciones a propósito de su diseño. **Hologramática**. Faculty of Social Sciences – UNLZ. Year V, Number 9, Volume 3, p. 3-26. Available on July 20, 2016 at: http://www.cienciared.com.ar/ra/usr/3/646/hologramatica_n9_v3pp3_26.pdf.

22 SPOSATI, Aldaíza (2006). A fluidez da inclusão/exclusão social. **Revista Ciência e Cultura**. Vol. 58, nº 4, São Paulo, Out./Dez. 2006. Available on July 20, 2016 at: http://cienciaecultura.bvs.br/scielo.php?pid=S0009-6725200600040002&script=sci_arttext.

23 KOSKO, Bart (1999). El futuro borroso o el cielo en un chip. Barcelona, Editorial Crítica.

24 SANTOS, Fernando A. Feitosa dos (s/d). **Exclusão social: conceito polissêmico**. Available on July 20, 2016 at: <http://www.uff.br/labsfundamental/arquivos/Exclusao%20Social%20Conceito%20Polissemico.pdf>.

inequality, and not so much on efforts to meet the specific needs of certain excluded groups. Exclusion in rural areas has a particular hallmark: the dispersed nature of these populations further limits their access to opportunities, goods and services, their participation in political decision-making and, in more general terms, their inclusion in development processes and enjoyment of the benefits of collective well-being.²⁵

In conceptual terms, there is a clear absence of an explanatory model for an integrated analysis of how the different forms of exclusion operate, especially in rural areas. At the same time, the lack of social, economic, political and cultural criteria that would facilitate a more global characterization of diverse contexts and situations becomes a methodological problem for defining such a model.²⁶ Another aspect of the notion of exclusion is the risk of focusing analyses and actions on superficial or marginal elements, diverting attention and interventions away from the structural aspects that cause and condition exclusion processes.

Recognizing these aspects of exclusion and their intrinsic limitations is important when implementing actions to support excluded groups in rural areas, since it establishes the theoretical and methodological framework used for the analysis and, at the same time, helps to target actions toward strategic issues.

2. Exclusion as a structural and heterogeneous phenomenon

Historically, different types of exclusion have shaped the development of societies in the American continent. Exclusion is a structural social phenomenon, especially in the Latin American and Caribbean societies, and has become a kind of *modus operandi*, since it contributes, under a perverse and inequitable logic, to the very reproduction of these societies. This approach rejects the current dichotomous vision that separates “insiders” from “outsiders” and considers that excluded groups form part of the contradictory dynamics of modern societies, as products of

25 According to Valentín Cabero Diéguez, of the University of Salamanca, “access to services in the rural world is also closely related to the structure and configuration of settlements and density (...) the dispersion of groups and the atomization of municipalities reduces the supply of services, amenities or infrastructure”. See DIÉGUEZ, V. C. (s/d). Mundo Rural y Servicios Sociales. Fundación Luis Vives, Spain. p. 9 and 11. Available on July 26, 2016 at: http://cyl.geografos.org/modulos/noticias_noticias/img/cuaderno_europeo_8_mdo_rural_valentin-20100611102607.pdf.

26 ZIONI, Fabiola. Exclusão social: noção ou conceito? *Revista Saúde e Sociedade*. Vol.15, n° 3, São Paulo, Sept./Dec. 2006. Available on July 20, 2016 at: http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0104-12902006000300003.

social dynamics that generate different types of inequities and inequalities.

The populations that live in conditions of exclusion in rural areas, and the situations of exclusion to which they are subject, are very heterogeneous.²⁷ Different aspects are superimposed in these situations of exclusion that affect certain social groups in different ways:

- rural women suffer a greater degree of discrimination when they do not possess personal documents, do not have land rights, are indigenous or Afrodescentant, do not have their own source of income, have low levels of education, do not have access to health services, are adolescent mothers, do not participate in decision-making processes within their own family, organization or community, due to the implications of patriarchal structures or, in the specific case of indigenous women, have difficulty speaking the official language, since indigenous men, because of their geographical mobility and work, are better able to operate in this environment;
- rural youth are excluded and even expelled from rural areas when they do not have access to land or

to opportunities to create their own agricultural or non-agricultural rural enterprises, when they work in temporary jobs and in precarious conditions, when they do not have access to education and technical or professional training services, and when their communities of origin do not have access to collective public goods that enable them to express themselves freely;

- indigenous or traditional rural populations with limited access to natural resources, infrastructure, facilities, public goods and services, who live and work in areas disconnected from the dynamics of regional and national development, who use ancestral production techniques and whose cultural expressions are not socially valued, live a life conditioned by these different situations of exclusion that interact and complement each other.

In this sense, social origin and trajectory, economic status, access to public services and production assets, as well as ethnic or racial origin, create several facets or degrees of exclusion, which combine in different ways to characterize processes and situations of exclusion in rural areas. These excluded

27. <?> IDB (2008). ¿Los de afuera? Patrones cambiantes de exclusión en América Latina y el Caribe. Report 2008. Washington.319p. Available on July 20, 2016 at: http://www.iadb.org/es/investigacion-y-datos/detalles-de-publicacion,3169.html?pub_id=b-2008.

segments form a social collective with very distinct profiles, who live in heterogeneous contexts. Consequently, public policies must take into account the diverse factors that constitute forms of exclusion and design differentiated strategies and actions so that the State, together with civil society organizations, can provide more efficient and effective programs to reduce these inequities and inequalities.

3. Exclusion as a multidimensional phenomenon

Different dimensions and degrees of exclusion are interconnected and influence the formation of social groups with complex demands, which are differentiated from each other by their specific forms of exclusion. Recognizing the multidimensionality²⁸ of exclusion processes is another basic principle of this concept, since these different dimensions permeate the social life of excluded groups and affect several aspects: (i) territorial, as a space for living and working, associated directly with access to land or natural resources; (ii) social, expressed in inequality of opportunities in relation to the right of access to public goods and services; (iii) cultural, regulating access to knowledge and artistic-cultural expressions; (iv)

economic, expressed in a lack of decent job opportunities and incomes; (v) political, due to the absence of channels for citizen participation in policymaking and access to differentiated public policies; (vi) symbolic or subjective, manifested in different forms of gender, generational or ethnic discrimination and, consequently, in the low self-esteem of these populations.

A third aspect of the concept of exclusion is the relational or interdependent nature of its dimensions. These are interconnected and provide mutual feedback, prompting the emergence of complex situations, since, generally speaking, exclusion is not an isolated facet, but rather is the result of a set of interconnected processes, resulting from the convergence of numerous factors. Consequently, exclusion cannot be attributed to one main cause or determinant, but rather to numerous integrated factors.

Finally, it is essential to recognize the political implications of an analysis that identifies multiple and interdependent causes of the phenomena related to exclusion: to be consistent with this interpretation, institutional frameworks and public policies must develop coordinated and integrated processes that organize interventions in the public sphere, breaking away

28. <?> IDB (ibid), p. 14.

from the sectoral fragmentation that tends to characterize State actions.

Moreover, it is not simply a question of strengthening the interinstitutional approach to governmental action. It is also necessary to create viable conditions and mechanisms for effective citizen participation in these processes. Likewise, it is not appropriate to create territories that may be considered economically inclusive, but retain characteristics of exclusion in the spatial, social, environmental, political, cultural and symbolic spheres. To be fully inclusive, these initiatives must preserve existing ways of life and social organization, guarantee the right of access to public goods and services, incorporate populations and their territories with dignity into national development plans, strengthen mechanisms for citizen participation in political decision-making and change the cultural models upon which social relationships are structured.

4. Exclusion/Inclusion as a dynamic process

As a product of social relationships, the dialectics of exclusion/inclusion should be understood as a dynamic and changing process. No matter how great the historical and structural weight of exclusion in the social development of Latin American and

Caribbean societies, from an analytical perspective, the dynamic and changing aspects of these processes should be emphasized, since they are neither static nor inexorable. As a social phenomenon resulting from specific social relations (and not a natural product or the destiny of human societies, as often interpreted), exclusion must be understood at its interface with inclusion, as part of a contradictory movement between exclusion/inclusion or between inequality/equality, where these two poles continuously interact and are redefined.

The opposing forces of the exclusion/inclusion clash with each other daily in the changing dynamics of societies. As a result of this interaction, new inequalities are engendered or consolidated, while at the same time, new processes or dynamics of inclusion are constructed and strengthened. These opposing movements reflect the complexity of processes of expansion and retraction of inclusive dynamics, both in different areas and over time. In other words, within the same territory or social group we can identify significant advances in some areas and regression in others, or a significant retreat during one period and progress in the next stage.

Consequently, this approach considers inclusion as a changing process. Initiatives aimed at promoting inclusiveness should not be considered as a

goal or a point of arrival²⁹ that, when achieved at a given moment, remains unchanged or static over time. In order to be sustainable over the long term, inclusive processes must strengthen the autonomy and leadership skills of excluded social groups and, simultaneously, consolidate a permanent base of public policies to regulate any tendency toward exclusion, determined both by economic and market forces and by the social and political forces within society that benefit from reproducing those conditions. Thus, establishing paths for overcoming different forms of exclusion is an ethical responsibility of democratic States, accomplished through the construction of equity and through society's collective will to eliminate the strong inequalities existing within it.

5. Understanding the structural factors that generate inequalities

In accordance with this view, it is important to consider the trends and movements - often contradictory - in governmental institutions and in a diverse group of civil society and private sector organizations that provide

a field for sociopolitical mediation capable of defining the connections between the territorial level and the local, regional, national and global levels. Understanding the dynamics inherent to this field of mediation and the forces at play between the different stakeholders involved in the development of rural territories is of fundamental importance to understand the structural factors that engender and reproduce inequality and exclusion in rural areas. Although these excluded groups face major difficulties in forming more homogeneous historical subjects to act in this field of political dispute, what enables them to articulate their differentiated interests is the opportunity to contribute to the creation of an equitable social project. An analysis of the types of rural exclusion must consider the importance of social relationships that continuously (re) build situations of inequality and affect, in different ways, local stakeholders' opportunities for access to assets, goods, services, resources and opportunities. Tackling the deepest causes of exclusion is a basic requirement for building a society with social justice, territorial and social cohesion, and an equitable distribution of the civilizing advances produced by development.

29. IDB (ibid), p. 219.

6. Inclusion: implications for public policies

The issue of inclusion is present in the political agenda of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, though with different degrees of priority and strategic positioning, and perhaps without the necessary political and budgetary emphasis. The region displays high levels of social, economic, cultural and political inequality. Consequently, policies to promote inclusive development in rural areas are of critical importance in driving these processes forward, and improving the well-being of the majority of the population. Given these characteristics, it is necessary to:

- articulate inclusion policies with national macro policies: to ensure that inclusive actions will have sustainable impacts on society, it is essential to coordinate these with larger national strategies and ensure the necessary budget allocations and institutional arrangements to facilitate development with equity;
- incorporate a cross-sectoral perspective in inclusion strategies: given that exclusion is a complex problem caused by a wide range of factors, policies to promote inclusion should incorporate a cross-sectoral approach, ensuring the integration of actions that are currently implemented in a fragmented manner by different sectors (access to and sustainable use of natural resources; social and productive inclusion;

developing organizational and negotiating capabilities, and political influence; access to quality public services, and placing value on local knowledge and culture, in consonance with other types of knowledge and cultural patterns, etc.).

In this sense, efforts to promote inclusive area-based rural development require a process vision and a multi-dimensional and systemic perspective, since the causes of exclusion in rural areas are rooted in various facets of social life.

7. Inclusion and changes in the structure and institutional culture of the State

To tackle the structural causes that produce and reproduce different forms of exclusion, the State must intervene in different areas through institutional frameworks and solid public policies, in a coordinated and integrated manner in order to generate complementarities and synergies. Formulating and implementing a policy of inclusion or inclusive development is the ethical responsibility of democratic States, since their strategies and actions should contribute to reduce social inequalities and consolidate a society based on social justice and on the strengthening of citizenship and participatory democracy. This means that States (not only governments) must include in their policy agendas efforts to reduce social inequality and guarantee decent living

standards for the entire population, so that priority is given to designing and implementing strategies, policies, plans or programs that address the needs of excluded and vulnerable social groups in rural areas.

Implementing social, productive, cultural and political inclusion policies, with an area-based approach, requires the State to introduce a number of structural changes in public institutions. Doing so implies changes in the State's policy guidelines, in the legal and regulatory framework, in the institutional arrangements, in the operational practices of those institutions, in the actions of leaders and public officials and in the methods of implementing programs. Adapting the State's institutional framework to promote sustainable processes of inclusion also requires the ministries or institutions of the economic area to coordinate their actions with those of the social area, and with the planning bodies or those directly linked to the Presidency, etc. These changes in the structure and political-institutional culture are of vital importance in helping to create the conditions, mechanisms, instruments, processes and innovative practices that promote the coordinated implementation of public policies.

More specifically, to achieve these transformations new approaches are required so that the *territorialization* of public policies includes, for example, the principles of differentiation and contextualization, allowing for effective coordination between existing national policies and the

specific demands of an area's stakeholders. An inclusive strategy should respect the specificities and needs of each excluded social group. In other words, programs and actions designed to encourage processes of inclusion must set different priorities and intervention strategies, according to the characteristics of each prioritized social group. Implementing universal policies is not appropriate given the significant differences in the conditions in which each type of excluded social group lives (women, youth, indigenous or Afrodescendant communities etc.) Consequently, there is increasing awareness of the need to design differentiated policies, even taking into account the heterogeneity within each specific group. Therefore, since each target group has its own specificities, different strategies and priorities are required for each segment.

8. Developing capacities and the construction of social subjects

Enhancing the institutional capabilities of social organizations to impact local development processes and area-based governance mechanisms that influence decisions on the design and implementation of inclusive and sustainable development projects, is an important objective of the methodological actions promoted by the Flagship Project on Inclusion. The project's capacity-building strategy forms part of a broader process of institutional innovation, so that the social stakeholders - including civil society organizations

– that impact the public sphere, have the means to adapt their organizational systems, objectives and methods of action to the current characteristics and future trends of society. The institutional strengthening of social organizations should seek to consolidate their political autonomy and independence from State entities, emphasizing the stakeholders' political leadership in the construction of development projects of interest to society as a whole.

Thus, the idea is to consolidate recognizably “traditional” forms of organization and representation, while at the same time promoting new institutional, interinstitutional and even cross-sectoral arrangements to address the modern challenges facing rural areas and an increasingly equitable and democratic society. Community, sectoral and advocacy organizations, along with innovative groups of a cross-sectoral nature, in coordination with consumer networks or other urban groups that work to improve negotiating capacity and insertion in contemporary societies, represent important mechanisms for building citizenship and subjects with social projects for their future.

9. Importance of strengthening leadership capabilities in stakeholders

In order to perform this role with a greater degree of empowerment and autonomy, it is essential that different

social groups develop strategies to strengthen their political and organizational capabilities, facilitating their active intervention in the public arena, both at the local and national levels. Developing collective skills and abilities that facilitate access to and management of information and knowledge, learning processes and the exchange of experiences, and the perceived possibility of building, in a participatory manner, alternative ways of addressing the situations experienced in daily life, underscore the urgent need for an innovative project. In this sense, efforts to reduce or eliminate inequalities must associate the struggle for access to assets (land, water, knowledge), incomes, goods and services (credit, technical assistance, housing, education, health, sanitation services, energy), social and productive public infrastructure, programs and rights, with opportunities for excluded social groups to act as true holders of rights, with autonomy and self-determination, and with capacity to influence the construction of proposals for the future of the society of which they form part.

Meeting these challenges is essential so that social stakeholders can be democratically included in initiatives for the social management of public policies and autonomously formulate their projects for the future and development plans in rural areas. This requires innovative forms of social organization, in which the participating social stakeholders can assume a leadership

role, maintaining their autonomy vis a vis the State, the market and other civil society organizations.

The diversification and institutional strengthening of organizational and representative structures, in their different facets and fields of action, are essential to ensure the social leadership and political empowerment of rural stakeholders, in the context of democratization processes in the Latin American and Caribbean societies. In this sense, the construction of inclusive, participatory and sustainable development in rural areas involves the organization of social stakeholders, especially the most excluded segments of family farming, so that they can defend and expand their social, economic, cultural, political and environmental rights. In each of these spheres of action, it is important to encourage the creation of organizational systems, whether traditional or innovative.

10. Inclusion as a right

Reducing conditions of vulnerability and exclusion is directly associated with guaranteeing rights that promote access to better opportunities and a life with human dignity and collective hope. Here it is important to emphasize that the notion of affirming people's rights cannot be confused with the idea of "favor" or "beneficiaries" of public policies. This viewpoint is not consistent with the desired view of people as

holders of rights in this process. From the perspective of this project, these rights are an indispensable condition for the full exercise of citizenship. Recognizing these social groups as holders of rights is an essential step for overcoming the various forms of social stigmatization and political and cultural segregation to which they have been subjected in the past. However, to assume those roles, these groups must recognize themselves as social subjects, no longer as objects of the action of other groups and interests, and must undertake collective actions for the construction of an equitable social, economic and political order.

11. Inclusion and democratic consolidation

Based on this integrated approach, it is necessary to link the topics related to the inclusion of democratic consolidation and citizen participation processes in the social management of public policies that impact rural areas. Participatory democracy, area-based governance and citizen inclusion are deeply interwoven elements, given that the continuation of exclusion processes weakens the construction of democracy and hinders opportunities for participation by different social groups in processes to define strategies and projects of common interest. Expanding the mechanisms for including citizens in the public sphere leaves a democratic imprint on society, based

on the affirmation of autonomous spaces for social and political representation, on legitimate forms of collective action and cooperation, and on ethics of solidarity.

Notwithstanding the importance of the arguments concerning different manifestations of social, economic or cultural exclusion, it is probably in the ethical-political dimension - especially in relation to the issue of human dignity - that we find the central element capable of laying the foundations for building an equitable and inclusive society.

However, to more effectively reduce the scope and depth of social inequalities and injustice in society, the State's intervention is essential. This must be accomplished through the design of institutional frameworks and the strengthening of organizational capabilities and approaches that favor strategies and policies of inclusion. Creating a political agenda that promotes equity and reduces inequalities as a policymaking strategy implies re-designing and adapting the State institutions, so that governmental bodies and area-based mechanisms of governance can promote dynamic and sustainable processes that ensure the full assignation of spatial, social, economic, cultural and civic inclusion rights. Thus, developing public policies aimed at improving the dignity of the human condition, in both objective and subjective terms, requires

public consensus and interest and, at the same time, political prioritization by the State.

12. Inclusion and new public policy agendas

The design and implementation of a comprehensive set of area-based development policies for inclusion constitutes a major challenge for the LAC countries, which have historically co-existed with profound inequalities and inequities. The different forms of exclusion represent structural aspects of the continents' social evolution and affect countries' potential for development.

Reducing social inequality and poverty in the rural territories of Latin America and the Caribbean remains a strong social demand in each State's political agenda. Some countries have adopted strategies, policies, plans or programs to promote the inclusion of rural areas, based on a rights approach, which seek to address the demands of social groups whose way of life and work is based on family organization. Other countries, while they consider this to be a strategic problem, still lack an institutional framework or policies to support and guide efforts to tackle the issue comprehensively, or even on a sectoral basis.

Thus, in a scenario with different political-institutional characteristics, a pending task is to promote conditions that

facilitate the construction or improvement of a new generation of public policies, using an equitable, area-based and multidimensional approach. Such policies to reduce inequalities require innovative interinstitutional arrangements that address and overcome the structural roots of rural exclusion, giving the State an essential role in the shared implementation and management of inclusion policies in agriculture and rural territories. In this way, the actions of the democratic State, primarily through public policies, aim to contribute to the elimination of the perverse effects of exclusion and encourage the construction or dynamism of equitable and sustainable processes that increase the opportunities to reconfigure rural territories and the agricultural activities within them, based on a development project founded on new values.

However, the State must recognize the significance of the changes that have occurred in society, in recent decades, and adapt its instruments to these new conditions. It is important to acknowledge that the expression of these inequalities and inequities has changed, along with the ways of addressing such social phenomena. Traditional public policy instruments and mechanisms, based on a hierarchical, bureaucratic, sectoral, fragmented and unidimensional approach, do not enable us to resolve complex problems. In order to respond to the new challenges posed by the current processes of exclusion, it is essential to create spaces

for local stakeholders to come together and conduct participatory area-based planning and social management, as a political strategy for supporting and promoting inclusive development processes. Moreover, implementing area-based strategies requires new systems, in which integration and coordination, horizontal and cross-sectoral approaches, and multidimensional, interinstitutional and cross-cutting aspects are constituent elements.

13. Relationship between the State's macro policies and inclusive development policies

To be effective, sustainable and fulfill a structural role in the public agenda of a particular society (and not merely a secondary, fragmented role, of a compensatory nature), strategies and public policies of inclusion must be discussed, negotiated and agreed in terms of their integration with State guidelines and macro policies. This requires a certain level of political agreement among the social, economic and political forces, in order to prioritize actions to tackle the processes that (re)produce different forms of exclusion and inequality, linking these with the overall national development strategies. This positioning at the heart of the country's political agenda is essential to resolve a structural problem that especially affects Latin American and Caribbean societies, and in a very significant way.

To ensure that inclusive policies have combined effects and impacts on the whole of society, and not only on certain social segments, this social pact must address different aspects of life and also different social spaces. In this sense, greater emphasis should be placed on efforts to support the rights of excluded and vulnerable rural populations, since the demand for equity in rural areas represents a broad field for State intervention.

The implementation of development policies in rural areas that focus on revitalizing social, economic and civic inclusion processes implies prioritizing policies aimed at reducing regional and social inequalities, and efforts to build a social project without poverty, discrimination or exclusion. It also involves strategies and initiatives that seek a greater economic and social integration of rural sectors, particularly family farming groups that live in historic conditions of exclusion. Integrating initiatives in different aspects of social relations enhances the interdependence of the effects generated and increases

opportunities for creating more sustainable forms of inclusion in society.

In addition to promoting the equitable inclusion of groups currently excluded from the dynamics of sustainable rural development, area-based rural development and inclusion policies also serve to complement and strengthen strategies associated with other areas of governmental action, such as the popular and solidarity-based economy, food and nutritional security, social management of local resources and social cohesion. A strategy to incorporate family farming –as the prioritized social subject of these policies– in these different spheres of action, would encourage the consolidation of area-based family farming systems, so that they diversify their economic base, organize independent economic structures and networks, improve links and cohesion between rural and urban spaces, promote greater empowerment, leadership and autonomy among the stakeholders involved, and strengthen their collective identities based on a shared project for the future.

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About the Workbooks on Inclusion

The Workbooks on Inclusion are a series of conceptual and methodological documents that include analysis of national or area-based experiences and comparative discussions and lessons learned on topics such as inclusion, empowerment and economic dynamics in area-based rural development processes and family farming systems, as well as the social management of public policies and related institutional transformations.

Objective

To share advances, intermediate outputs and advanced versions of public goods generated in local, national, regional or hemispheric processes associated with the Flagship Project on Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories

Thematic area

- Contributions and conceptual debates on inclusion, with an emphasis on empowerment and economic dynamism, in area-based development processes and the strengthening of family farming systems
- Work methodologies for the inclusive development of agriculture and rural territories
- Documented or systematized experiences on the development of rural territories and their family farming systems
- Relevant case studies on area-based development and inclusion.
- Analysis documents for sharing and exchanging knowledge of national and area-based inclusion processes.
- Documents related to capacity building for inclusion in development processes.
- Comparative discussion of national and area-based experiences of inclusion in agriculture and rural territories
- Lessons learned and good practices on inclusion in agriculture and rural territories
- Public policies for inclusive area-based development and the strengthening of family farming systems
- Institutional and interinstitutional processes for inclusive area-based development and the strengthening of family farming systems
- Collective actions for inclusive area-based development and the strengthening of family farming systems
- Other topics associated with inclusion in area-based development processes.

Authorship

- Individuals or groups involved in processes related to the FP on Inclusion or with related initiatives may submit papers for publication.
- Individuals whose work is published in this series retain intellectual authorship of their work, and are responsible for its contents. They may publish subsequent revised versions in journals, books or other works, making reference to the original version.

Editorial Committee

- The Committed is comprised by the Leader and members of the Coordination Team of the Flagship Project on Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories

Languages

- Spanish, Portuguese, English or French

Format

Given the nature of this series, the format is flexible and texts will be published without a philological review. However, all authors are requested to adhere to the following style guidelines in their manuscripts:

- Simple space, Calibri No. 12 type in the text and No. 10 in the footnotes.
- Automatic index or table of contents at the beginning of each fascicle
- Section headings in capitals and bold, with Roman numerals
- Subtitles in cursive and bold, with Roman numerals
- Numbering of pages on the lower right corner of each page, except the cover
- Link to a web site and date on which the cited work was available, where relevant
- Bibliography at the end of the fascicle: author's name in capitals, year in parentheses, title of the book or journal in bold type, place of publication and publisher.

Electronic and print versions

- **Electronic:** Published as a pdf file, sent to a mailing list of interested individuals and organizations, and available on the web page of the Flagship Project Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories at portalsiget.net
- **Print:** Free printing of copies by the IICA Offices, institutional partners or other interested parties and at IICA Headquarters, according to demand and availability of resources.

Flagship Project: Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories

This project provides technical cooperation services to IICA's partner institutions with the aim of contributing to the establishment of political-institutional processes to support the participatory design and management of comprehensive policies for inclusive development in rural territories. Strengthening institutional frameworks and public policies for rural inclusion is key to the success of this project. Thus, the rural populations that have traditionally been excluded from development processes will have better opportunities to integrate, in a more just and equitable manner, into the dynamics agricultural and area-based rural development.

To accomplish this objective, IICA's works to facilitate the coordination of governmental institutions, economic and social organizations, academic centers and private sector companies, with the aim of creating awareness and encouraging the participatory construction and social management of a set of integrated strategies, policies, programs and actions to promote social, economic and civic inclusion in rural areas where family agriculture predominates. The project's actions are not limited to organizing and implementing projects that address the immediate needs of groups of women, young people or ethnic communities who live and work in situations of

exclusion in rural areas. Rather, the idea is to create and consolidate institutional frameworks so that public policies of inclusion reach a larger number of excluded groups and thereby have a deeper impact on society.

Complementarily, in rural areas it is important strengthen and empower excluded groups and enhance their social leadership capabilities so that they can participate in area-based networks, coordinate with organized sectors, design projects and develop economic initiatives of common interest that serve to energize the territory.

This project is being implemented in 11 countries of the continent (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Guyana, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil) and, with the exception of Haiti, IICA is simultaneously providing technical cooperation at the national and area-based levels. In line with the project's systemic approach, the actions focus on the topics of public policies, inclusive economic development and the empowerment of stakeholders. In addition, by incorporating the experiences and lessons learned, at the end of the process IICA hopes to produce public goods that can serve as reference for other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

