



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO experiences with territorial development – A global perspective

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## Territorial Development: an evolving concept

Some drivers for change on rural development approaches:

- Decentralization programs and projects with significant devolution of power to regions, districts and municipalities;
- Deregulation, the interconnection of territories with transnational value chains, the environmental crisis and the persistence of rural poverty have spurred the search for new approaches to rural development, broadening its scope and differentiating it from agricultural development;
- Shortcomings of community development approaches in 70s/80s and sectoral rural development approaches (one size fits all) with an over emphasis on agriculture development only.
- New “ruralities”: Rural areas are transforming rapidly due a blurring rural-urban divide and increased flows of people, goods, services and information between rural and urbans. Urban, and specially peri-urban areas are also rapidly changing. Spatially segmented interventions (rural x urban) reinforce spatial discontinuities and prevent adequate answers to development needs (infrastructure, services, public goods) (TP4D)

## Rural or Urban? Quick look at the Borborema Territory

HDI



Territory population: 652,000

73% Urban

371,000 people live in Campina Grande city

Total GDP 3 billion BRL (2,2 billion from Campina Grande)

However most of it comes from services or agriculture related industries



## From local and community to territorial approach

Table 1. From local to territorial development.

Local and community development approach of the 1970s/1980s	Mainstream contemporary territorial development approach
Mono-scale approach Aims at fostering local production and consumption circuits, self-reliance and self-sufficiency	Multi-scale approach Aims at integrating markets at different scales
Mobilization of local resources as a response to local needs	Revelation of specific resources to meet national and international competitiveness
State and local/regional administration as major actor for development	Integration of new types of stakeholders into local/regional governance

Source: Koop et al. (2010)

- Valorisation of local assets and specific features, but linked to other scales of action to increase interactions/opportunities
  - Recognizing the limitations of the territory
  - Also competitive to national and global markets
  - Also support for addressing global problems

## Territorial Development: an evolving concept (cont.)

New approaches were developed to respond to these factors:

- Schneider (2004) summarizes the new approach in four key elements: eradicating rural poverty, promoting the protagonism of social actors and their political participation, having the territory as a reference unit and seeking environmental sustainability.
- Schejtman and Berdegúé (2004) stress that rural development strategies in Latin America have increasingly incorporated the territorial dimension into their guidelines. The territory is the center of these approaches because they are spaces of coordination between actors in which new forms of governance are conceived (SCHNEIDER, 2004; LEITE et al., 2008; CARON et al., 2017).

## Territorial Development: an evolving concept (cont.)

- For Schjetman and Berdegúé (2004) territorial development promotes the productive and institutional transformation of a rural space aiming to fight rural poverty.
- Additionally, Leite et al. (2008) stress that territorial development can also acquire a broader and complementary definition, aiming at the dynamization of territorial society and the strengthening and consolidation of smallholder agriculture. The objective of territorialization, in this case, would be the consolidation of smallholder agriculture and its articulations with the territory, promoting more egalitarian and sustainable society.
- Caron et al. (2017) defends that the territorial approach is a privileged path to achieve sustainable development. Rural territories are central to provide to world economic, social and environmental functions and services essential do peace and social cohesion.

## Territorial Development: an evolving concept (cont.)

“In order to adapt to new territorial realities it is necessary to take into account the entire set of spatial dynamics that design development policies that characterize a region or territory (different roles of small town and cities, their connected or close surrounding landscapes, more distant rural regions, various networks supporting flow of people and goods), including power relations

Spatially adapted action must put people and the places where they live as the focus of development efforts.”` TP4D

## Territorial Perspective

- Territory as space of governance where future projects are conceived and implemented
- Anchors development strategies in territorial assets;
- Multiple levels of spatial organization, connecting local, regional, national and international
- Based on multi-stakeholders governance mechanisms
- The integration with landscape management and the socio-economic dimensions of the use of natural resources is crucial!

## Territorial experiences

- Territorial approaches have been implemented in many countries and regions particularly in Latin America, Europe and Northern Africa: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, France, Italy, Tunisia, etc
- Some governments have reshaped rural development public policies and adopted a territorial perspective (Brazil, Colombia)
- Civil society organizations in many countries have also adopted a territorial approach on its work and strategies;



## FAO Territorial experiences

- Integrated territorial development and landscape management
- FAO territorial development tools and papers
- FAO landscape approaches tools and papers
- 100 territories without hunger and poverty
- TP4D alliance

## Project: Strengthening country-level implementation of territorial development and landscape approaches

Territorial and landscape approaches seek similar objectives, starting from understanding the territory in its totality, and propose development plans that encompass the diversity of agro ecological contexts and livelihoods, the ecosystems functions and practices, the cultural identity of a territory, and the infrastructure and services existing available to the stakeholders.

The Project seeks to **understand how countries implement integrated territorial and landscape approaches** from the national government and in the regions. The project three different activities:

1. A systematization process coordinated with national consultant in the five countries participating in the project: Colombia, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Moldova and Lebanon;
2. Capacity Development Activities to support on-going integrated territorial and landscape approach;
3. Knowledge exchange based on the systematization work through a platform and a workshop that will be held in December 2019 in Beirut and experts consultation in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020.

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/territorios-inteligentes/es/>

Led by CBL/SP3 Partnership with CIRAD

## Territorial Development tools and papers

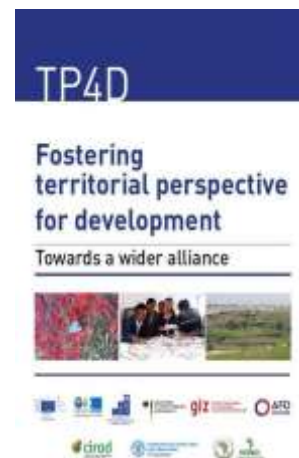
- An approach to rural development: PARTICIPATORY and NEGOTIATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT (PNTD)
- Negotiation, environment and territorial development Green Negotiated Territorial Development (GreeNTD): paper and toolkit
- Territorial Diagnosis handbook (in partnership with NGOs)
- Social network analysis for territorial assessment and mapping Food Security and Nutrition Systems (a methodological approach)

## 100 Territories Free of Poverty and Hunger

- The regional office of the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented in april 2019 its strategy to fight poverty and hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The strategy is named "100 Territories Free of Poverty and Hunger". It seeks to work with local governments, civil society and private sector to address extreme poverty and hunger & mal nutrition in the 100 most vulnerable territories in the region.
- The first phase of the strategy focuses Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic

## Territorial Perspectives for Development TP4D

- International Alliance to promote and raise awareness of territorial approaches; engage development partners in TD, mobilize multidisciplinary research and build capacities
- People-centered; Place-Based; Cross-sectoral; Multi-level; Multistake-holder; Muldi-dimensional; Integration and synergies; Flexible
- Stocktaking of TD experiences
- Partners: EC, CIRAD, OECD, UNCDF, BMZ, GIZ, AFD, FAO and NEPAD



## Key areas of work for for strengthening integrated territorial and landscape approaches

- 1) Promoting enabling public policies;
- 2) Integrating territorial and landscape approaches;
- 3) Building territorial governance and accountability
- 4) Enabling institutional arrangements and coordination;
- 5) Funding of territorial development initiatives
- 6) Addressing power inequalities
- 7) Understanding rural territories as social construction and space for articulation of social actors;
- 8) Ensuring multi-stakeholder meaningful engagement
- 9) Data quality and data analysis

**Thank you !**

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