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**Contribution of rural development to the achievement of sustainable  
development objectives. Empirical evidence and research method in defining  
and evaluating the extent of rural development**

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## Abstract:

Rural development needs to be regarded as an active driver of national development in countries with large rural populations. Increasing productivity in agriculture leverages labor and resources for other sectors while sustaining food supplies for urban areas. The experience of newly industrialized and emerging industrialized countries indicates a precedent for rural development, where an increase in agricultural productivity in rural areas leads to industrial as well as general development. For a better understanding of the phenomenon, I used a research method based on overlaying data from different sources of research and comparing, eventually, the degree of similarity. The purpose of this paper was to analyze the main features of the contribution of rural development to the achievement of sustainable development objectives. The main findings of the research showed us that a combined effort is needed to harness the potential of rural populations and resources to en sustainable development overall and to achieve the SDGs in particular. This effort should be based on the principle of improving the lives and livelihoods of rural people and not be a technocratic exercise in economic, social, or environmental policy. Furthermore, economic instruments can also play an important role in promoting sustainable land management, but it is important to achieve growth in rural economies without sacrificing environmental sustainability. Moreover, the EU has a responsibility to promote sustainable land management. Subsidy programs could also be further developed to provide payments for ecosystem services and compensate farmers for their environmental impacts.

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### • Introduction

In countries with a large rural population, rural development must be seen as an active driver of national development. Increasing productivity in agriculture mobilises labour and resources for other sectors, while maintaining food supplies for the urban environment. The experience of newly industrialised and newly industrialising countries points to a precedent role for rural development, where an increase in agricultural productivity in rural areas leads to industrial as well as overall development. The experience of the Green Revolution in the 1960s also shows that increasing agricultural productivity can be a process and a self-sustaining force. It would therefore be a mistake to take the historical evidence of structural transformation to mean that rural development is merely a subsequent result of urban growth. Instead, policy makers need to pay attention to the early processes that led to rapid industrialisation in other countries, identify the forces that led to the successful end results and draw lessons from them. For agriculture, this means policies that :- increase agricultural yield and productivity;- ensure better and more stable prices for inputs and products; - open up new domestic and international markets;- expand rural non-agricultural economies that produce much-needed goods and services; - provide more earning opportunities.

### • Material and method

Using the keywords economic growth, economic development, human capital, econometric quantification, education, human capital investment, rate of return on investment, internal rate of return, and short-term return on income, we examined Google Scholar, Research Gate, Emerald Management, Science Direct, and Spring Link databases, as well as databases of publications dealing with topics that are similar to the research thesis, in order to conduct this research article and obtain the necessary meta-analysis. Except for the standard classical benchmarks that are required to support the concepts, we have established a ten-year benchmark. From the initial round of searches, 102 papers with similar titles, ideas, and topics were found. Consequently, 56 articles had to be removed from areas of interest outside the scope. After that, we found the remaining abstracts. In the end, irrelevant articles were removed, leaving 38 papers in the final batch, which can be seen in the scientific article's bibliography.

### • Results and discussions

In countries with large rural populations, rural development must be viewed as an active driver of national growth. Increasing agricultural productivity frees up labor and resources for other industries while also ensuring food supply in urban areas. The experience of newly industrialized and rising industrialized countries suggests a pattern for rural development, in which increased agricultural output in rural areas contributes to both industrial and general development. I employed a study strategy based on overlaying data from many sources of research and evaluating the degree of resemblance to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon. The goal of this article was to examine the key aspects of rural development's contribution to achieving sustainable development goals. The research's main outcomes demonstrated that a collaborative effort is required to harness the potential of rural populations and resources for overall sustainable development and achievement of the SDGs in particular. This initiative should be built on the premise of improving rural people's lives and livelihoods rather than being a bureaucratic exercise in economic, social, or environmental policy. Furthermore, economic instruments can play an essential role in encouraging sustainable land management; nevertheless, growth in rural economies must be achieved without jeopardizing environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the EU bears duty for promoting sustainable land management. Subsidy schemes could potentially be expanded to pay for ecosystem benefits and compensate farmers for environmental effects.

### • Conclusions

A concerted effort is required to maximize the potential of rural populations and rural resources in order to ensure sustainable development in general and to combat ODD in particular. This effort should be based on the principle of improving people's lives and transportation options in rural areas, rather than being a technocratic exercise in economic, social, or middle-class politics. It is critical to grow rural economies without jeopardizing environmental sustainability. Inequality must be addressed without undermining stimuli for growth and risk-taking. Environmental protection must be balanced with our options for long-term transportation for rural populations. More importantly, rural people's political voices and concerns must be included in the process of changing their lives. Regardless of the attention paid to these aspects, rural development has the potential to be a powerful force propelling national development in the direction of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including ODD. Economic instruments can also play an essential role in promoting sustainable land management. Direct payments can encourage farmers to improve their farm management. Subvenții condiționale pentru îngrășminte, for example, could be granted if farmers adopt an easily verifiable organic fertilization management practice. Furthermore, subsidy programs could be developed in the future to provide payments for eco-system services and to compensate farmers for their efforts in replanting.