

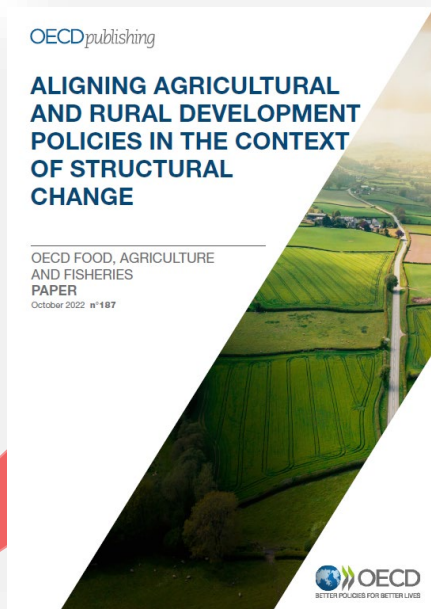
Fostering Agricultural and Rural Policy Dialogue: Experiences from recent OECD work

Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD)
OECD

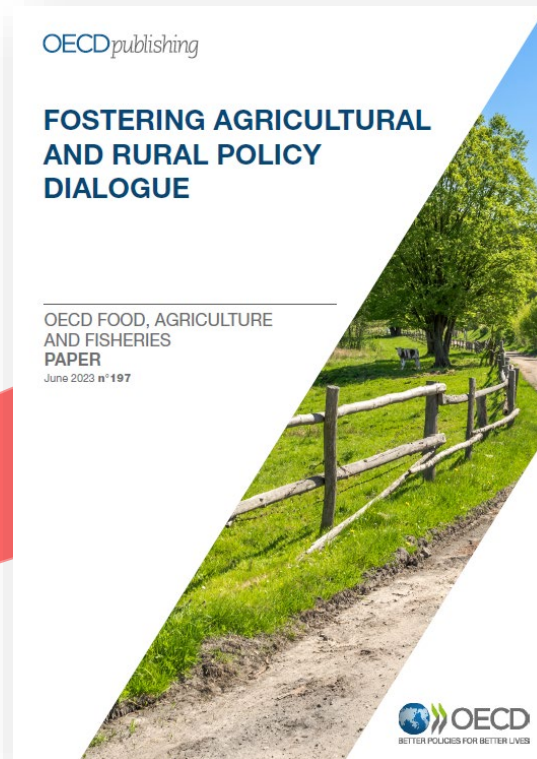
16 May 2024



More OECD reports on rural challenges addressed by Agri-Rural policies



October 2022



July 2023

Report 1:
Social Issues in Agriculture and Rural Development

Report 2:
The Evolving Profile of New Entrants in Agriculture and the Role of Digital

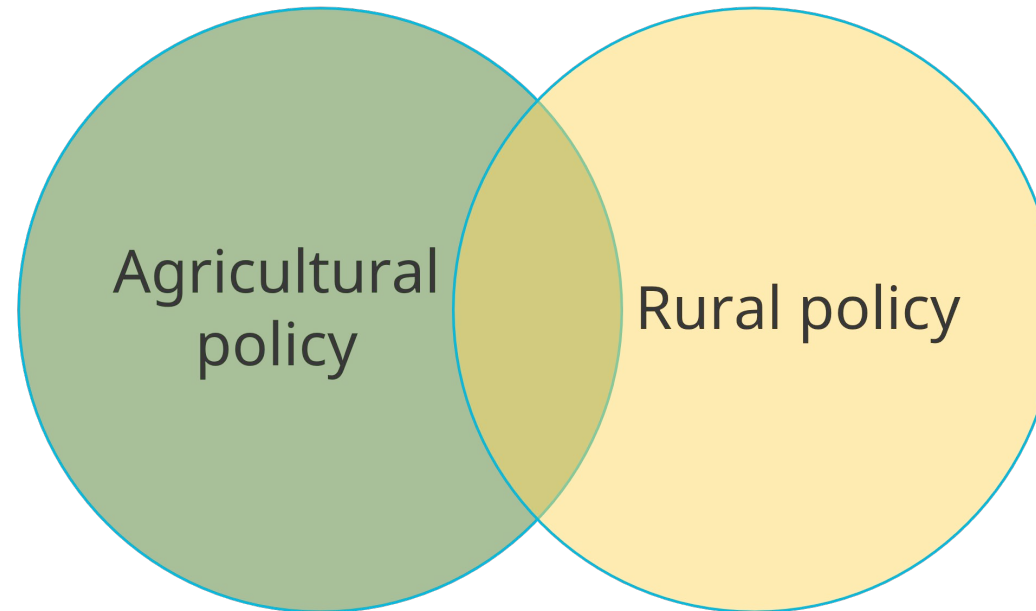
Expected early summer 2024



Areas of complementarity between agricultural and rural policies

Policies to support general services or public goods on agriculture

- Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems
 - Extension services
 - R&D for production technologies
- Policies that enhance resilience
- Productivity improvement policies
- Soil and water management policies



Intersection of rural and agricultural policies

- Achieving a diversified low carbon rural economy through regulation for a better governance of land use
- Regulation on better water use
- The use of circular economy models in rural regions
- The provision of environmental services in general

Rural policies that create the enabling environment for the development of rural regions

- Education (e.g. vocational education, skills)
- Rural infrastructure (e.g. connectivity that includes roads and internet coverage, electricity, housing, etc.)
- Health services
- Financial services etc.



Why does the intersection between the two policy areas matter?

- Both policies are often applied in the same territory
 - Critical for effectiveness and efficiency of both policies
- Shared interests are growing toward
 - Improving environmental sustainability and climate change
 - Enhancing well-being and inclusion
 - Improving food security and nutrition
 - Increasing productivity and innovation
- But having common goals does not automatically translate into policy coherence
 - Due to differences in priorities, institutional culture and approaches to policy making



Agricultural policy vs Rural policy

What are the differences?

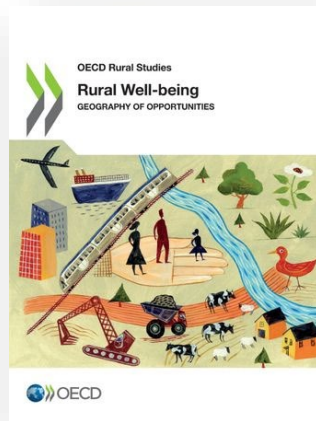
Broadly speaking....

- Agricultural policies have historically often been designed in a centralized way reflecting the importance of budgetary support
- Rural policies in several OECD countries have taken a more holistic and polycentric approach

	Agricultural policies	Rural policies
Definition of type of policy	Sectoral	Territorial
Goals and objectives	Mainly food and production focused	Mainly seeking to stimulate economic development and well-being
Design/delivery process	Top-down	Bottom up and top-down (multilevel governance)
Measures	Standard instruments often applied to whole sectors/regions	A wide variety of measures, more territorially targeted often integrated in different packages
Rationales for intervention	Public goods, externalities, inter-sector inequality	Inter-territory inequalities

Convergence between the two policy approaches is on-going

- Recent shifts in two policy areas
 - Rural policy → Rural Well-being
 - Agricultural policy → The food systems lens



Triple challenges of FS


- Food and nutrition security
- Env sustainability
- Livelihoods

Policy approach

- More **polycentric** governance
- **Inclusive co-development**

Multi dimensions of Rural well-being

- Economic
- Environment
- Social



Better understanding of potential trade-offs and synergies is needed

1. Role of agriculture in structural change

Ex. *Are agricultural policies having an impact on the decline (or the increase) of **rural employment**?*

2. Diversification of farming and rural economies

Ex. *Can rural and agricultural policies jointly contribute to **food security and nutrition**?
Can rural policies make the **agricultural sector more attractive**?*

3. Achieving environmental sustainability

Ex. *Do current agricultural policies help to make **food production compatible with environmental sustainability**?
Can the rural policy approach help to **mitigate the environmental footprint of agriculture**?*



Tackling the social issues needs beyond traditional sectoral policy approach

- Policy examples from the OECD report on the social issues confirm the need of a broader policy perspective

Country	Social issues at stake	Rationale for policy intervention	Main policy instrument
Canada	Increasing number of farmers suffering from mental health problems	To mitigate factors of farmers' stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support farmer mental health researchPromote mental health literacy in agricultural communities
Switzerland	Many family members (e.g. wives) who work on the farm receive no social protection	To improve the equality of treatment across workers in agriculture and with other sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">From 2027, extend social protection coverage to partners on farms as a precondition for direct payment
Italy	Lack of effective social and health services in some rural areas, and limited care services for vulnerable groups	To create more inclusive opportunities for vulnerable groups through the Social Farming (SF) practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support to set-up networks for diversification of agricultural activities, healthcare, educational activities etc. and to carry the SF



Building “place-based” economic and social links for well-being & resilience

Some countries implement policies to facilitate “social connections” among community members (social capital)

Rural Community Hub Programme in New Zealand

- Ministry for Primary Industry provides start-up fund to establish “rural community hub”
 - Initiated to widen its support for farmers and their families to be included in all networks of people who make up rural communities
 - Had established 32 hubs through the country

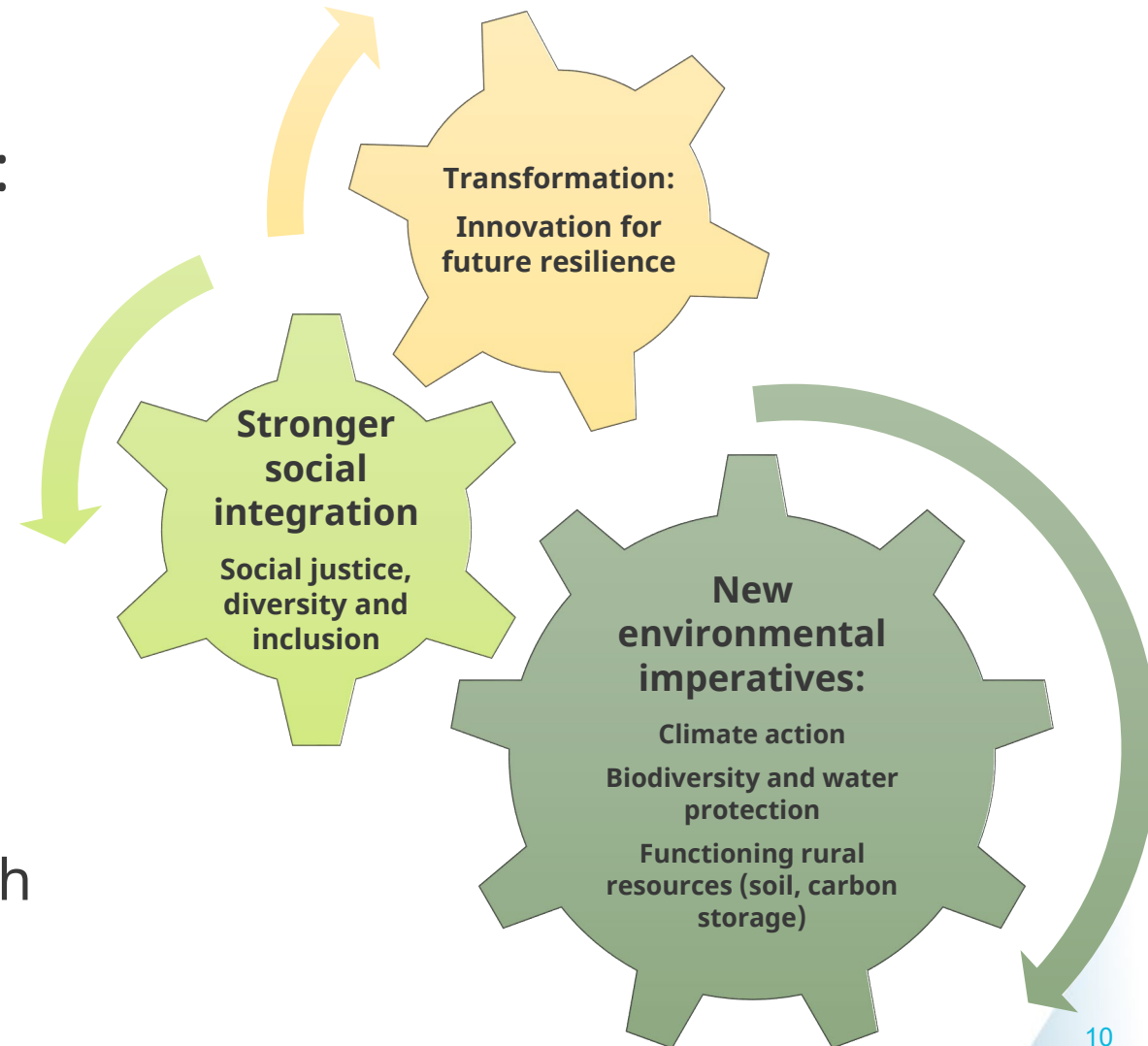
Payments for collective engagement in Japan

- Support collective engagement of local stakeholders in e.g.
 - maintenance of waterways,
 - activities strengthening resilience to natural disaster,
 - activities for conservation of local ecosystems
- Collect “community-level data” to monitor activities
 - E.g. “number of meetings held by farmers” and “number of activities for revitalising communities”



Towards enhancing synergies and policy coherence

- Working towards a common vision: Environment, social, innovation, resilience
- Learning from other policy areas
 - Rural policy → Taking account of agricultural policy impacts on rural outcomes
 - Agricultural policy → Increasing co-ordination and place-based approach that support entrepreneurship and well-being in rural areas





Thanks for your attention



Access all of the OECD's
research and analysis at:

www.oecd.org/agriculture



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