

Rural Development in China and Namibia: Comparison of Problems and Policy Responses

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SUMMARY

Rural and urban (including the peri-urban) are critical spatial units within any country. They occupy unique policy spaces in national developments. Their residents also constitute an essential human resource for development. However, unequal balance in spatial development, to the advantage of the urban, has always been blamed on rural-to-urban migration in many cases. This paper, recognizing the importance of the urban and rural areas within the frame of national development, strives to provide an understanding of what drives the inferiorisation of the rural within the structure of national spatial development. Its focus is on cross-country rural development cases in China and Namibia. This paper identifies and compares the rural challenges and policy responses from China and Namibia to potentially draw lessons to enhance their rural development interventions. The paper is divided into three main parts. The first part of the paper relates to rural development issues in China, focusing on rural transitions, their challenges, and China's rural revitalization policy. The second part focuses on Namibia's rural development, emphasizing challenges and policy interventions. Finally, it presents cross-country lessons for China and Namibia based on the discourse explored. Two of the key outputs of the paper are that it shows a framework for understanding the causality path for rural transformation in China, and a rural features comparison matrix for China and Namibia.

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