

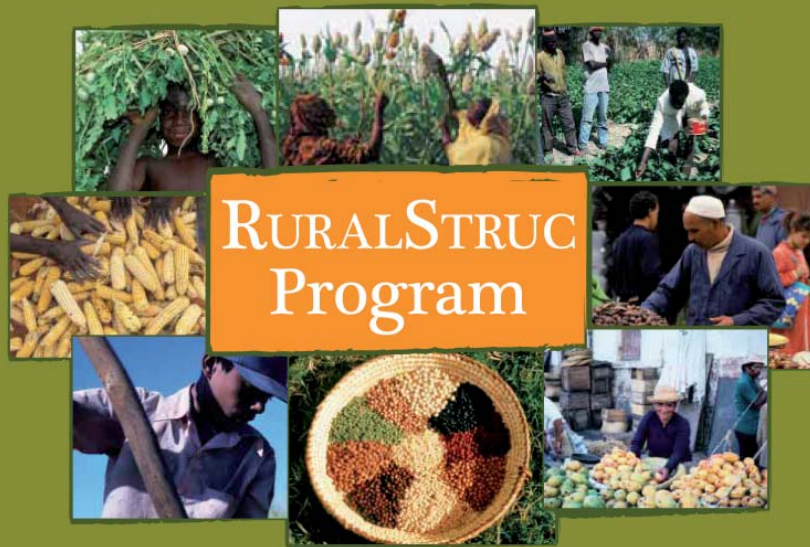
les dossiers d'**AGROPOLIS** INTERNATIONAL

Expertise of the scientific community



Societies and sustainable development

Contribution of the social sciences



RuralStruc Program

Structural dimensions of liberalization on agriculture and rural development

The 3-year (2006-2008) RuralStruc Program (World Bank, Agence Française de Développement, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes - France, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche - France, International Fund for Agricultural Development, CIRAD) aims to gain insight into the structural dimensions of liberalization processes and economic integration with respect to agriculture and the rural sector in developing countries. The adopted approach is not just limited to trade liberalization, but also includes other features of the change process—domestic reform, state withdrawal, privatization and decentralization, and reshaping of global agrifood markets.

This multidisciplinary RuralStruc Program involves a combination of national and international experts and researchers who conduct comparative studies in seven countries, corresponding to different stages in the liberalisation and economic integration processes (Mexico, Nicaragua, Morocco, Senegal, Mali, Kenya and Madagascar). The Program consists of two main analytical phases: (i) an assessment of the situation in each country (2006-2007), concerning their trajectory of structural change in agriculture

and the rural economy, and (ii) sectoral and regional case studies (2007-2008) based on surveys of rural households. The main themes investigated are:

- Integration processes (vertical and horizontal), their impact on the segmentation of production structures and marketing, especially in terms of concentration and marginalization
- the risks of economic transition impasses associated with these processes in countries where there are few alternatives apart from agriculture
- the reshaping of rural economies in relation to the emergence of composite multilocation activity and revenue systems (nonagricultural activities, migrations, public and private transfers).

The Program is carried out in each country with public policy discussions (between national partners and with donors) and the results provide guidelines for policymaking for the agricultural sector and the rural community.

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The aim of the internal research unit (UPR) Collective Action, Policies and Markets (**ARENA**, CIRAD) is to analyse tradeoffs underlying public policies and market coordinations at different geographical scales and decision levels. Its research project addresses the following key question: In what conditions, and how, are institutionalized tradeoffs between stakeholders developed, and how do they contribute to sustainably improving the functioning of agricultural markets and the development of public policies, promoting an increase in added value, sustainable natural resource management, equity and social

cohesion? The research methods are designed to assess both the individual and the social group with reference to different social and agricultural sciences. They are based on the collection of qualitative and quantitative *in situ* data. Moreover, they involve comparative assessments geared mainly towards understanding historical, territorial, social, economic and political dynamics.

The diversity of research areas enables studies on the different forms of tradeoffs and their recurrences: Latin America (Brazil, Central America, Africa (South and

West Africa), Asia (Indonesia), French overseas regions (New Caledonia, Mayotte). Partners of this UPR include universities, research centres and national and international donors, farmers' organizations, local communities, centralised and deconcentrated government services.

The expected results concern: (i) the production of knowledge on tradeoff development conditions in a broad range of different economic and institutional settings, (ii) the production of approaches, methods and tools to highlight and underpin public policymaking and negotiation. ...