

Rural Enterprise  
&  
Agric Business

25 members

# Introduction

## 1. Rural Employment

Opportunities exist for employment creation – turning rural challenges into opportunities

Mostly agricultural and informal; very few formal jobs (mostly public sector)

Rural infrastructure is poor and non-existent in most cases;

Rural life is harsh and risky – health, social security, under and unemployment, inadequate access to economic livelihood opportunities

Absence of decentralised structures

Poor access to information

Influx of rural youth into urban areas

- What needs to be done?
- Build confidence in rural communities and investors,
- Proper decentralisation that allows rural people to have a say in what happens in their communities and country;
- Build infrastructure that makes rural life comfortable and link rural communities to urban centres;
- Employment intensive investments in Roads, warehousing, housing, dams, electricity, water systems, health and education
- Bring state agencies closer to rural communities
- Work with rural people to provide alternative livelihoods
- Assessment of geographical needs- Revisiting town plans and adapting them to current and future needs – Assessing economic potential of geographical area

Adjusting policies and regulations to the needs of rural communities – address the problem of urban biased;

Making information available to rural people – information portal

Education and training is key

# 1. Agric Business

- Agriculture is mostly seen not as business; its last resort employment for people who have no other option;
- Abundance of land has so far been meaningless,
- Countries like South Korea has managed to achieve food security despite their agrarian disadvantages;
- Land tenure as a challenge
- Over-reliance on the weather
- Poor agronomic practices
- Achieving food security is important for achieving development goals

What needs to be done

Make food security and food sovereignty national objectives

Raise national investments in agriculture

Invest more in Agricultural Research

Land reforms are needed

Provide markets for local agricultural products, through effective regional integration

Providing infrastructure agricultural centres to markets

Proper mapping of the agric value chain

Help build businesses along the chain

Strengthen partnerships among stakeholders to harness

Proactive climate change policies and programmes

Stop heavy taxation of agriculture and rural communities

Building capacity

Set up monitoring and evaluation systems