



# Strengthening Rural- Urban Linkages in Africa to achieve food security

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**    **Time: 12.30-14.00**    **Place: DEVCO Info-Point**

Rural and urban areas are not strictly separate domains. They exist across a broad a “rural–urban continuum”, ranging from megacities and large regional centers to small townships and the rural hinterland. Besides the fact that rural areas were always dependent on cities, that interdependence has become more profound nowadays, also facilitated by greater access to traditional and virtual communications. The nature of these interactions has become more intensive, both across space and across sectors — agriculture, industry and services — with important implications for food systems. In particular small towns with up to 50,000 residents are a crucial connection in rural-urban linkages and reflect the geographic location of key food-chain activities.

Recognizing the role of small towns and enhancing rural-urban linkages will be critical for making food systems more effective and inclusive. This requires territorial, location-specific approaches in order to break the urban bias in public policies and reconcile the sectoral aspects of the food system with its spatial, social and cultural dimensions.

The event will look at multiple and complex interconnections between rural and urban spaces, and how these affect poverty and food insecurity in Africa. Firstly, the session will explore the urban-rural dynamic in Africa and implication for food systems, presenting some cases of agro-food sector development in small-medium sized towns. Finally, it will discuss concrete approaches that build, transform or strengthen urban-rural linkages to achieve food security for all.

#### Introduction:

**Leonard Mizzi**, Head of UNIT C, DG DEVCO

#### Presentations:

**Francesco Rampa**, Head of Programme Sustainable Food Systems and Economic and Agricultural Transformation Programme at ECDPM

**Olivier De Schutter**, Co-Chair, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)

**Guido Santini**, Technical Coordinator of the “Food for the Cities” Programme at FAO

#### Moderator:

**Giulia Maci**, ETG Coordinator

#### Discussant:

**Daniele Fattibene**, Research Fellow at IAI