

*TOPIC
GUIDE:*
Stepping
out of
agriculture



**Most SF today
will *not* be *full-*
time SF in
20/30/50 years**





Benign Rural Transitions



(FT
Comm)
Farming



*Part-time
Farming*



RNFE



Rural-
Urban
Links



Migration





Enigma of the RNFE

Small-scale: 1/5 jobs

Services, not
manufacturing

Low tech

Little capital

But RNFE can thrive, beat
poverty

China, India, Thailand,
Taiwan, etc.

Policy for RNFE: big points

Straightforward

- Enabling rural investment climate
- Rural public goods: roads/power; education/health

Tricky

- Rural financial services

Near-identical to Agricultural Development agenda! Trade-offs???

Policy for RNFE: finessing

Beware firm-specific actions: work up the hierarchy – sad history of rural ind estates, etc.

LED &
DTR/RTD

- Low public cost?
- Must decentralise

Poverty-
focused?

- Training & education
- Anti-discrimination
- Mitigate rural market failures

Migration from rural areas

A photograph of a train moving through a lush, green, hilly landscape. The train is crowded, with many passengers sitting on the roof. The scene is bright and sunny, with dense foliage in the background.

Much is seasonal, cyclical, maintains rural links

Varied
Motivations

- Economic, but household logic
- Social
- Capabilities & Aspirations: social networks

Impacts of migration

Generally positive

Rural areas:

- Remittances, diverse uses
- Loss labour: buy in?

Migrants:

- Sometimes: bad treatment, poor living conditions, discrimination
- Social sadness, sacrifice



Policy

Most governments discourage migration

- Strain services in urban areas, slums
- Political discontent
- Restrictions on movement have little effect, but raise costs & dangers

Better: facilitate rural household choices

- Better info re distant opps
- Reduce costs of remittances
- Protect migrant rights in work & to public services
- (Develop rural financial services)

Rural-urban links

Urbanisation: back in fashion

- Agglomeration economies

Closer links: urban demand for

- Leisure
- Environmental services
- Land
- Comp with rural manufacturing

Policy

Disappointments in
planned urbanisation

- Growth poles
- Agropolitan centres

Secondary towns may create more jobs than metropolises

Invest in roads, people & the land rights of those in peri-urban
areas

LED, RTD, industrial clusters + decentral.

Social: who steps out?

Initial advantages in RNFE & migration: those with education, capital, social networks

But poor can & do benefit:

- Directly, earnings from RNFE
- Indirectly, RNFE tightens rural labour market, higher wages,
- Safety net when shocks occur

Inequality effect ambiguous

Women
have

- fewer opps: tied to homes
- worse conditions and pay
- more vulnerability as migrants
- more work when men leave

But RNFE & migration may
still benefit women

Women & Stepping out: policies

Education for girls

Rights and protection as migrants

India
examples:

- Ethical placement & registration
- Toilets!
- Street lighting & safety on buses
- Rehab for trafficked & abused

Geographical disadvantage



Few options for remote regions lacking resources



WDR 2009: regional incomes diverge before they converge



Remote areas with some potential can progress when connected: NE Thailand

Lessons: agricultural development

Agricultural development not in conflict with RNFE

If farmers are leaving, then:

- Technology for part-time farmers
- Flexible and equitable tenure

Lessons: Overall

Processes: multi-stranded, complicated, fluid, difficult to measure, highly contingent

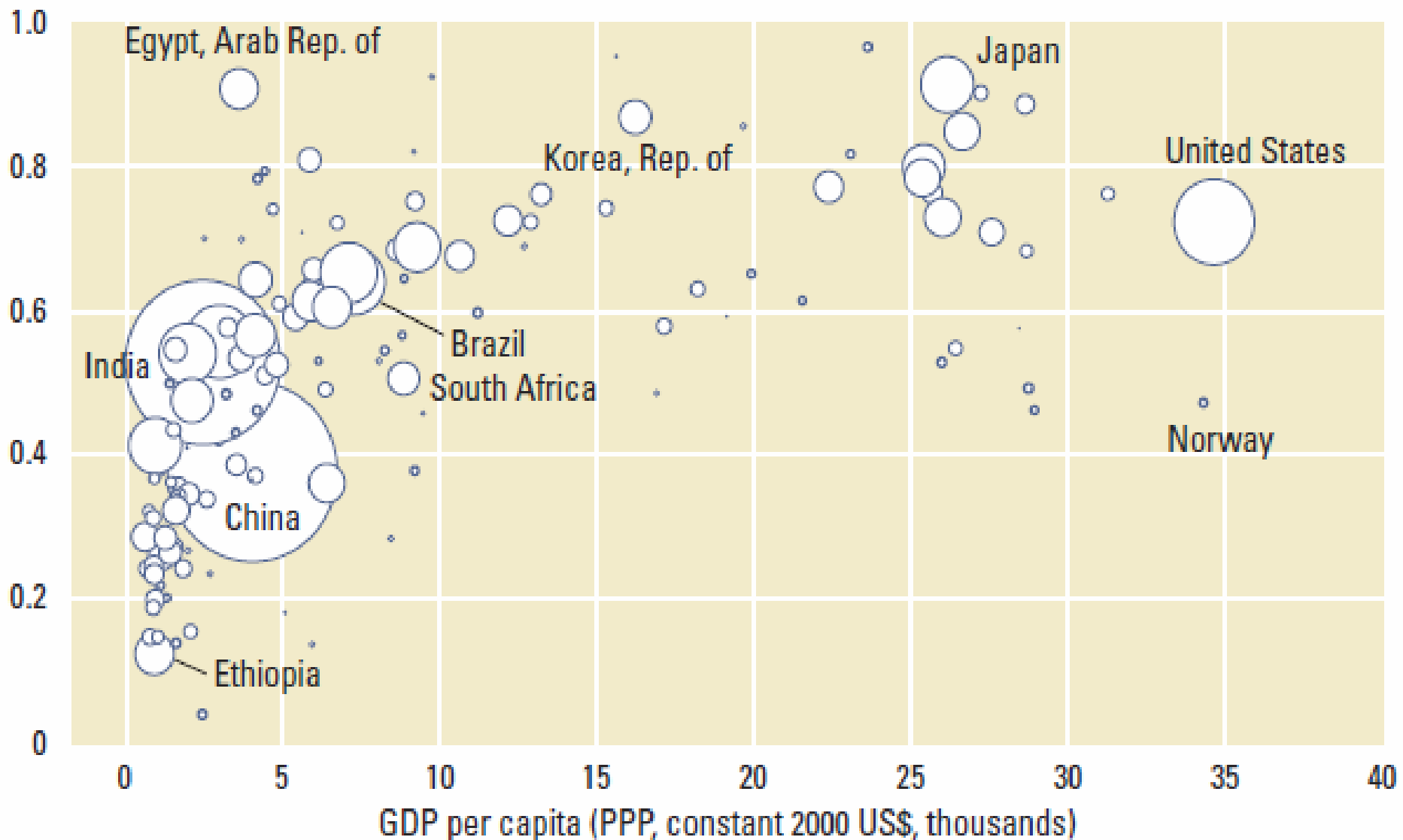
Can't micro-manage: instead facilitate & enable, protect & compensate, individuals, households, firms

Govt: focus on fundamentals; but encourage others -- NGOs, local government, unions, co-ops, etc. -- to explore detail

Track better changes, e.g. rural wages

Urbanisation

Agglomeration index



Kagera, Tanzania: Consumption, Ann, Adult Equiv, Tshs

