



XXVII FIG CONGRESS

11-15 SEPTEMBER 2022
Warsaw, Poland

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Urban-rural land linkages: Concept explained using ‘continuum’ theory and metaphor

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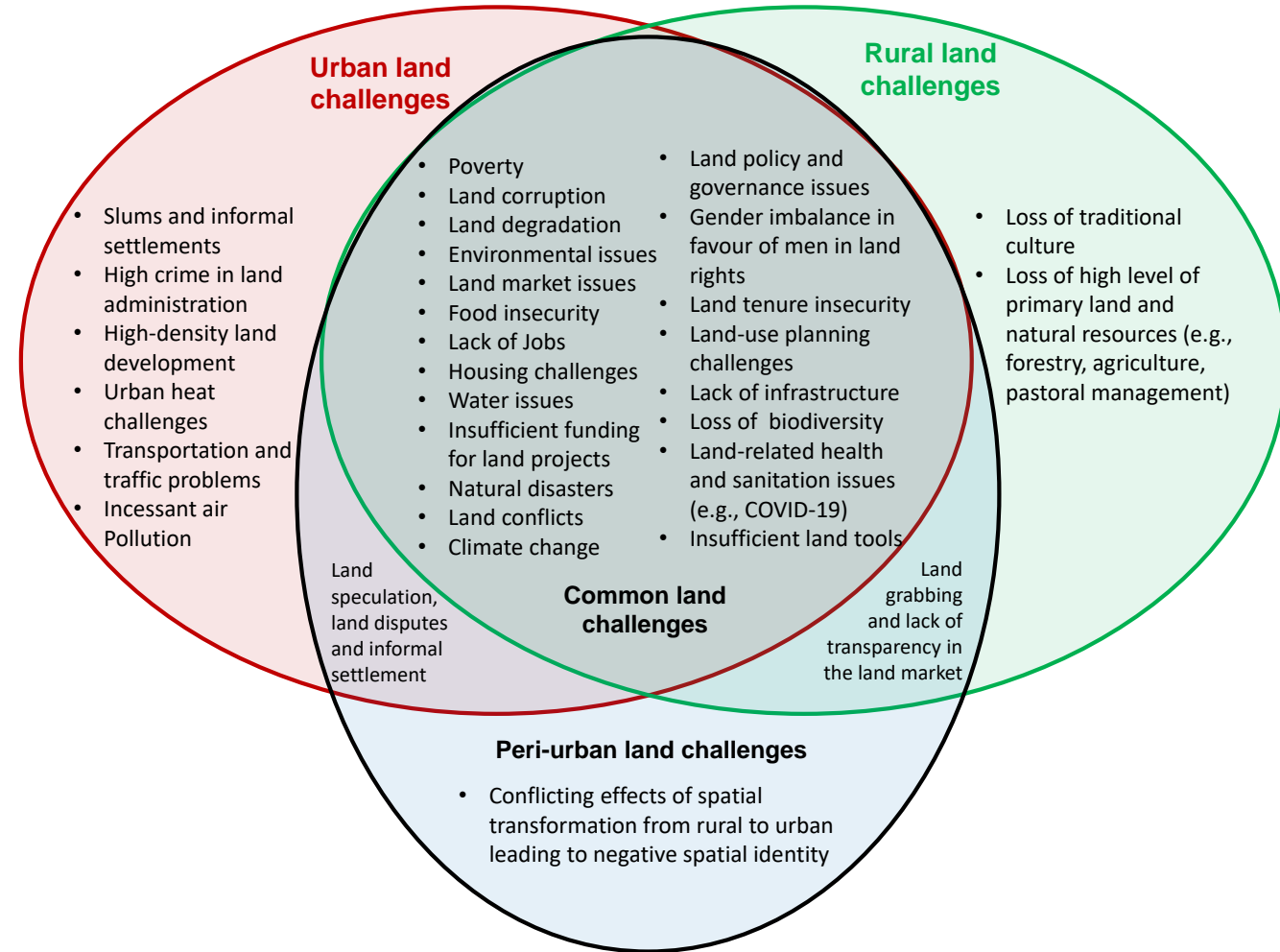


URBAN-RURAL LAND LINKAGES (URLLs) AS A CONCEPT

- The concept evolved from urban-rural disparity
- Urban-rural land disparity has existed from time immemorial
- Latin [Horace (65 BC—8 BC)]:
 - *Urbs* (city) and *rus* (open space).
 - *Rus* represented the countryside or open space
 - *Urbs* describes a city or large town that is a political entity with its territory
- English [Pope (1688—1744)]:
 - “City-like oasis on the barren landscape”
 - “Retreat where the proprietor could examine and nourish his spirit” (Archer, 1983: 160)
- FIG Marrakech Declaration (2003) raised awareness of urban-rural interrelations
- Global Land Tool Network (2021) published the “Urban-rural land linkages: a concept and framework for action”

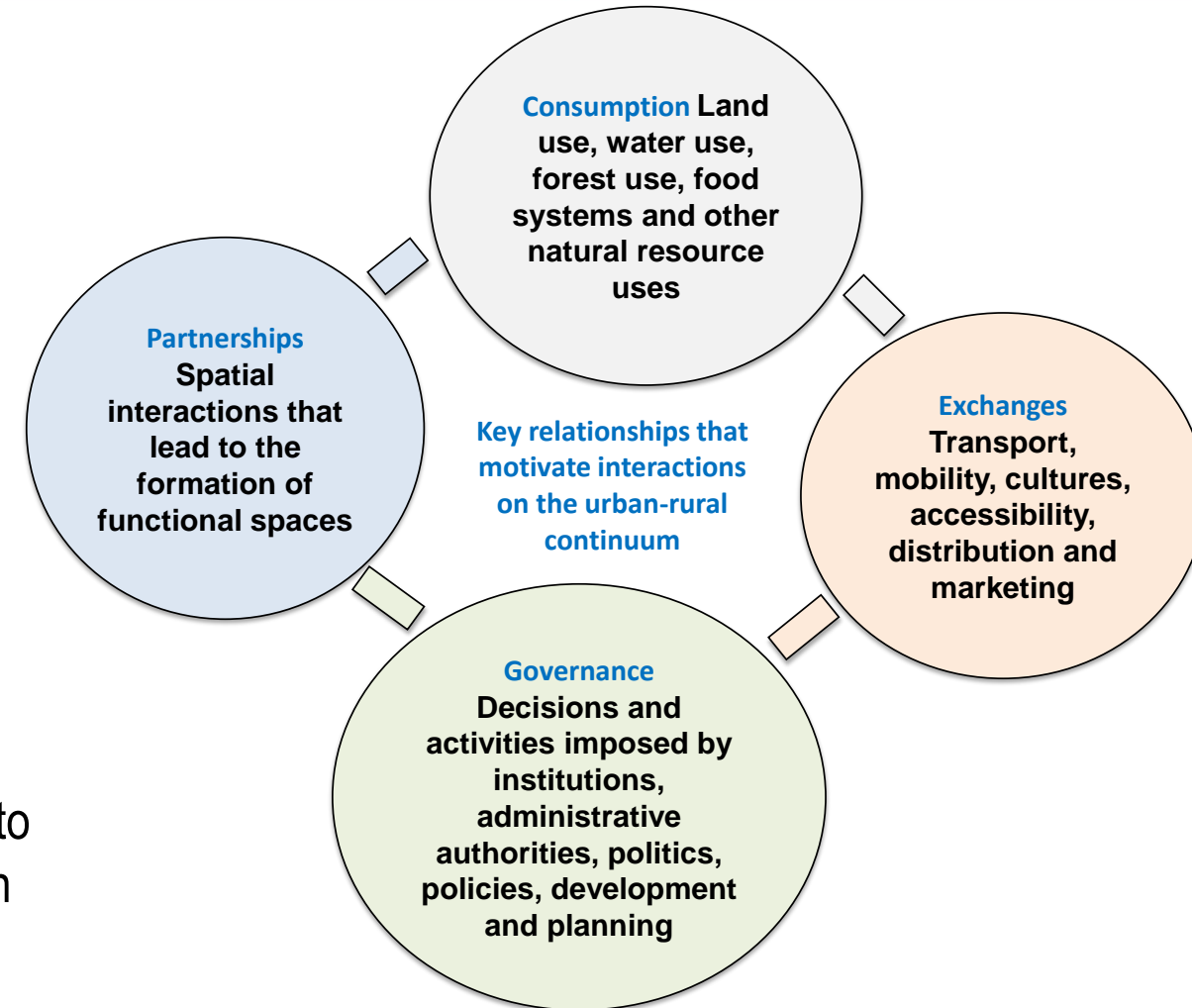
WHY AN INTEREST IN URBAN-RURAL LAND LINKAGES (URLLs)?

- Land challenges and opportunities exist in urban, peri-urban and rural areas
- All households live, work and depend on rural and urban ecosystems to sustain their lives beyond political and administrative spheres.
- Reciprocal and repetitive flow of people, goods and land/environmental services between specific rural, peri-urban and urban locations are interdependent



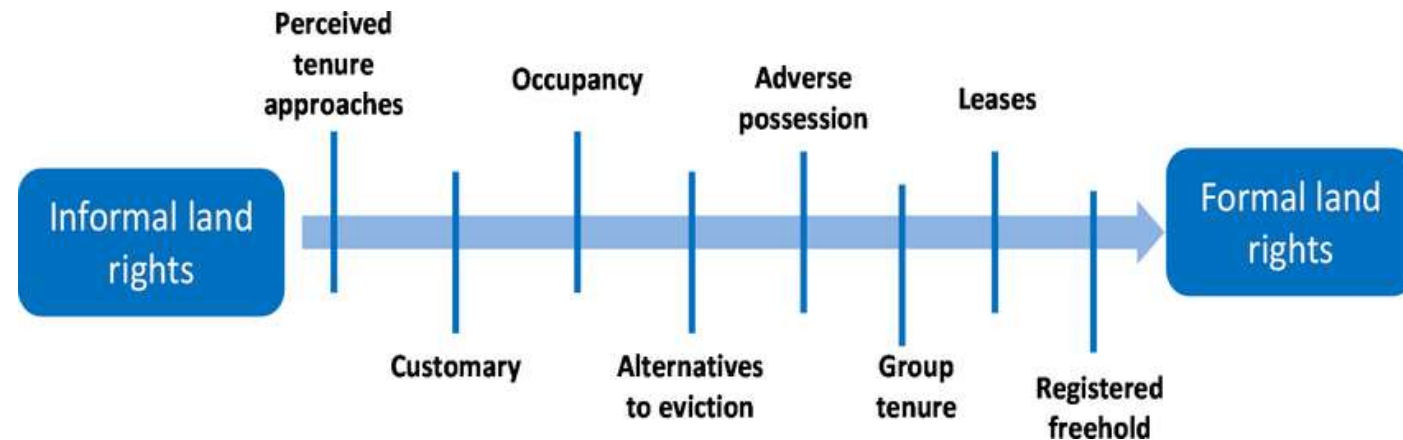
The urban and rural areas as shared and interrelated spaces for humanity

- Excessive consumption or demand for rural natural resources (e.g., land, water, forests and minerals) by urban or peri-urban residents puts pressure on these resources.
- Governance, natural resource decisions made (or activities carried out) in one space can influence other spaces.
- The various exchanges (e.g., mobility, distribution, transport) form relationships that make these areas interdependent.
- To achieve a balance in developing these areas, it is essential to view these relational factors as shared opportunities rather than threats.



Land rights occur in a continuum of backward-forward linkages

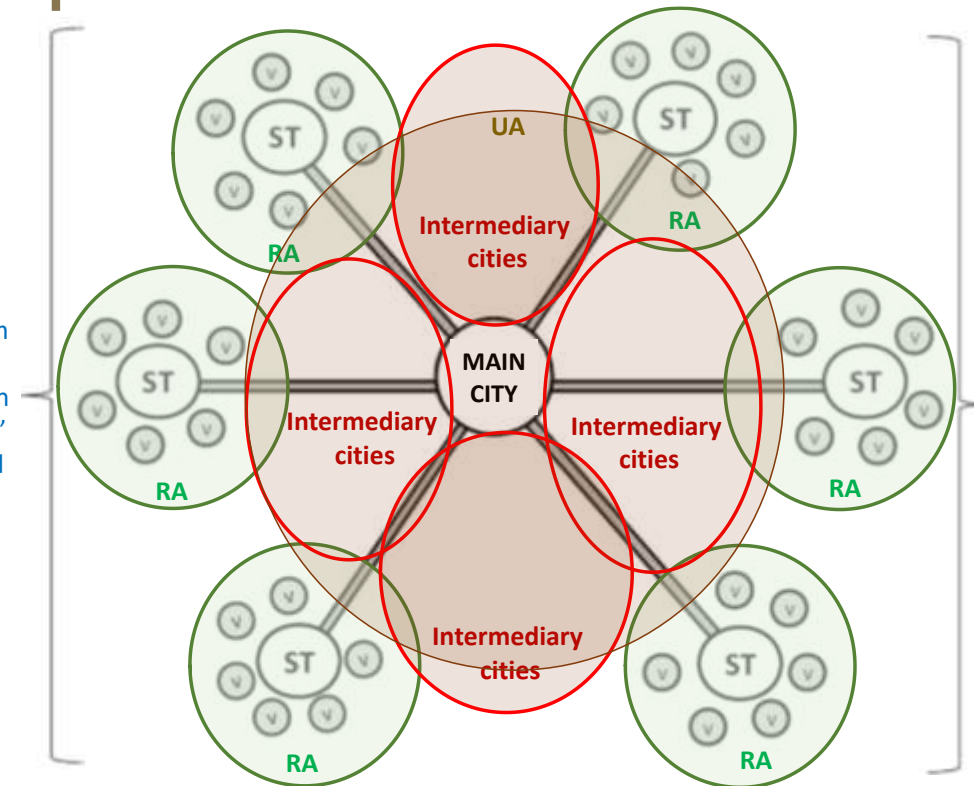
- Land rights form a continuum of range of rights with varying degrees of tenure security
- Each form of tenure in this continuum has benefits and limitations in different contexts
- Depending on their land rights awareness and socio-economic situation, people tend to opt for informal (or customary) and formal (or statutory) arrangements to access land and housing in areas that would otherwise not be affordable or available



URLLs represents a spatial continuum concept

- URLLs reflects that the rural and urban are not disconnected in space but have very blurred boundaries (social, cultural, physical, economic, political, institutions, information, administrative and territorial).
- Land driven physical and abstract spaces and human activities are naturally arranged and occur in a continuum
- Conscious governance of the continuum implies structuring land administration and land management activities to enhance urban and rural spaces equally or interdependently

Continuum of development spaces or settlements from "Main city" in the "UA" through ST in "RA" to "V" in a forward and backward exchange.



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Legend

— = Land linkages (including property rights as linkage)
 V = Rural village | ST = Small towns | UA = Urban Area or City | RA = Rural area

Facilitating URLLs in the context of urban-rural development

- Adjusting state of mind by all stakeholders
- (Re)structuring institutions and governance
- Food systems as a link between urban and rural areas
- Recognising that territory and location matter

Taking the discourse forward

INVITATION TO UPCOMING EVENTS

- FIG SPECIAL SESSION: Perspectives on urban-rural land governance for a spatially inclusive future - needs and actions for China(Re)structuring institutions and governance (15 September 8-10 am CET)
- CONFERENCE: Land governance and Societal Development Conference (Hybrid 8-11 November 2022)
- All events are facilitated by the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Hanns-Seidel Foundation, Shandong (China)
- Other partners: the GLTN and China Land Surveying and Planning Institute



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