CITIES AS GROWTH POLES:
IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Definition of Growth Pole

- A Growth Pole is:
  - A point of economic growth
  - A central location of economic activity
  - A point where economic growth starts and spreads to surrounding areas
  - An urban location where economic activity ignites growth and better quality of life in the urban periphery

- This definition presupposes a linkage between growth poles, economic growth and urbanization, as well as potential interaction effects
Trends in Urbanization

The level and rate of urbanization varies significantly across regions and countries. Africa is the least urbanized, has the fastest rate of urbanization and yet the lowest economic growth rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Urbanization Level</th>
<th>Urbanization Rate</th>
<th>Economic Growth*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America/Caribbean</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia/new Zealand</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*GDP/ Capita
Other Challenges of Urbanization in Africa

• High and rising urban poverty and income inequality
• Lack of efficient and effective city governance
• Unprecedented environmental crisis
• Absence of modern urban and regional planning legislative and institutional framework
• Inadequate infrastructure facilities and infrastructure services to meet increasing demand
Implications for Rural Development

Uncontrolled urban sprawl

• Potential adverse impacts of urban sprawl include:
  – Degradation of environmentally sensitive land
  – Deforestation
  – Loss of prime agricultural land
  – Creation of ecological imbalance
  – Poisoning of aquatic life
  – Destroying the livelihoods of fishing communities in riverine areas
  – Loss of Farm labour
  – Reverse (“urban-rural”) migration likely to “import” socially unacceptable behaviors
Conditions for African Cities to serve as engines of Economic Growth and Development

- Infrastructure
  - Basic, Economic and Institutional
- Enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship
- Efficient urban planning and management
- Suitably skilled labour
- Good governance, safety and security
Emerging Growth Poles in Africa
On going Case Studies

- Alexandria City Development Strategy and Growth Pole Project
- Madagascar Integrated Growth Poles Project
  - Antananarivo-Antsirabe
  - Nosy Be
  - Taolagnaro (Ft. Dauphin)
- The African Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI)
  - Kisumu, KENYA
  - Blantyre, MALAWI
  - Kumasi, GHANA
  - Akure, NIGERIA
  - Bamako-Segou, MALI
  - Louga, SENEegal
The Role of the African Development Bank

- A revised Urban Development Policy
  - Boost viability and competitiveness
  - Foster sustainable development
  - Achievement of MDGs

- Underlying principles of the Urban Development Policy
  - Integrated development
  - Private sector initiatives
  - Planning and local governance

- Strategic Pillars of the Urban Development Policy
  - Infrastructure
  - Governance
  - Private sector participation
Strategy and the Way Forward

John Parr (1999) outlines the salient ingredients for a successful growth pole strategy as:

- Appropriate
- Feasible
- Realistic
- Affordable
- Visionary
- Sustainable
- Participatory
The End

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION