

Nagoya University
Graduate School of International Development
Development Sociology 2015

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Class hours: Monday 16:30 – 18:00

Rural Development

Objectives:

In this lecture we will try to understand the characteristics of ‘rurality’ and examine different ways of thinking about rural development. First, we will look at two paradigm shifts, one in the mid-1960s and the other in the late 1980s. Second, we will explore the more recent approach associated with ‘sustainable rural livelihoods’ to see how it is different from the promotion of agricultural growth and whether it brings any changes in the alleviation of rural poverty. By the end of the class, students will understand the shifting ideals of rural development over the past sixty years as well as the importance of distinguishing agricultural development from rural development.

Questions:

- 1) Do rural and urban areas differ in meaningful ways in regard to livelihoods and alleviating poverty?
- 2) Considering the various rural development models of the past 50 years, how can the development challenges move beyond arguments of specialist versus generalist knowledge or of top-down versus bottom-up approaches?
- 3) In a world where over a billion people struggle to survive without food security, to what extent can or should agriculture lead rural development?

Required reading:

Ramisch, J. 2012. Rural Development. In *International Development*. P. A. Haslam, J. Schafer, P. Beudet, eds. Chapter 18. Ontario: Oxford Univ. Press.