

Learning event
Leveraging migration for development in the agricultural sector
IPPMD Project presentation

Oval Room, IFAD Headquarters, Rome
17 October 2017, 9:00-10:30

IFAD's Policy and Technical Advisory (PTA) and Global Engagement, Knowledge and Strategy (GKS) Divisions are pleased to invite IFAD colleagues and Member States representatives to participate in the **seventh event in the Global Policy Engagement Forum (GPEF) series**.

In this occasion, PTA and GKS welcome Mr David Khoudour, Head, and Mr Jason Gagnon, Economist of the Migration and Skills Unit at the [OECD Development Centre](#), who will present the [Interrelations between public policies, migration and development \(IPPMD\)](#) project and engage in open discussions with IFAD colleagues and Member States representatives.

BACKGROUND



Many developing economies are based substantially on the agricultural sector. As countries develop, they typically transit from a heavily agrarian-based economy to a more diversified one, shifting workers out of the sector in the process. **International migration** plays a central role, not only in reducing the pressure in an overcrowded agricultural labour market, but also in ensuring that much needed physical and financial capital are fed back into it, securing food sources, economic linkages and providing jobs to those who stay back, thus diversifying their incomes and reducing poverty.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT



In partnership with the European Union, the OECD Development Centre's **IPPMD** project was carried out in ten low and middle-income countries between 2013 and 2017 and sought to provide policy makers with evidence of the **importance of integrating migration into development strategies and fostering coherence across sectoral policies**. A balanced mix of developing countries was chosen to participate in the project: Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Haiti, Morocco and the Philippines.

The IPPMD project aimed to provide reliable evidence not only on the contribution of migration to development, but also for how this contribution can be reinforced through policies over a range of sectors, including agriculture. To do so, the OECD designed a conceptual framework that explores the links between four dimensions of migration (emigration, remittances, return migration and immigration).

KEY FINDINGS

- i. **Emigration is relieving and revitalising the overcrowded agricultural labour market.** The IPPMD report shows that in six countries (the Philippines, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia and Haiti), households with emigrants were more likely to have hired external labour (to the household) for their agricultural activities. This lends support to the idea that labour is being shifted out of the sector (through emigration) and leaving in its wake opportunities for other employment seekers in the country, thus revitalising the labour market.
- ii. **Remittances and return migration are strengthening the agricultural sector but also diversifying income sources.** According to the IPPMD findings, remittances are indeed being channelled into agricultural assets. The capital brought back by return migrants is also channelled into agriculture, but the evidence is less sweeping than for remittances. On the other hand, return migration seems to be more conducive towards other types of investments, such as non-agricultural business ownership, whereas this was not the case for remittances.
- iii. **Agricultural programmes open the opportunity for individuals to leave their country in many cases.** Agricultural subsidies, for instance, lift the financial constraints in poor agrarian societies, thus enabling emigration. On the other hand, in countries where the economy is diversified, agricultural subsidies reduce emigration. In addition, agricultural training programmes, likely because they supply skills that are in demand in other countries, increase emigration in both Cambodia and Georgia. Similarly, land titles seem to enable emigration in Côte d'Ivoire and the Dominican Republic, the two countries for which this was investigated.
- iv. **Immigrants have less access to agricultural programmes.** IPPMD results show that immigrants are less likely to benefit from agricultural subsidies, less likely to obtain agricultural training and less likely to have their official land title certificate. These outcomes limit the potential of immigration to contribute economically and socially in their host countries.

DAVID KHOUDOUR



David Khoudour is the Head of the Migration and Skills Unit at the OECD Development Centre in Paris, France. As such he is responsible for the policy-oriented work of the Centre on migration and development, and on education and skills. He is also the chair of the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on “Policy and institutional coherence”. Before he joined the OECD, in 2010, he was a researcher at the CEPII, a French economic think-tank, and a lecturer at Sciences Po in Paris, from where he holds a PhD in Economics. Dr. Khoudour, a French national, has also been a Fulbright scholar at the University of California-Berkeley, a professor of economics and the director of the research centre on international migration at the Universidad Externado de Colombia in Bogotá, and a consultant for the ILO and the IOM.

JASON GAGNON



Jason Gagnon is an economist with the Thematic Division and the Migration and Skills unit at the OECD Development Centre. He has worked at the OECD since 2007, including with the international migration unit in the Directorate on Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS). His work has mainly focused on the links between migration and development in developing countries. Jason is currently coordinating the OECD Development Centre’s Perspectives on Global Development flagship publication.