UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



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THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT 2015

Transforming Rural Economies





The Least Developed Countries Report 2015

Transforming Rural Economies

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- Key messages
- LDCs and Rural Transformation: from MDGs to SDGs
- Agricultural productivity
- Development of non-farm activities
- The Gender Dimension
- Transforming Rural Economies: A Policy Agenda



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Key Messages

Key Messages

- LDCs are the battleground on which the SDGs will be won or lost and rural areas in LDCs are where the battle will be hardest
- The SDGs both highlight the need, and offer the opportunity, for a new and different approach to rural development
- This means poverty-oriented structural transformation (POST), through agricultural upgrading and diversification, exploiting agriculture/non-farm synergies
- Linking demand and supply, differentiating among rural areas, and sequencing investment/interventions, are critical
- Increasing agricultural productivity requires increasing input use and quality, strengthening agricultural R&D and extension, and infrastructure investment
- Financing for productive investment needs to be *affordable* as well as *available*, well targeted, and linked to business skills
- "To will the end is to will the means"
- Fulfilment of ODA commitments is essential, and the target for ODA to LDCs should be increased to 0.35 per cent of donor GNI

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LDCs and Rural Transformation: from MDGs to SDGs

Context: the 2030 Agenda/SDGs

- Absolute goals require us to think differently
 - We can halve poverty by harvesting "low-hanging fruits"
 - We can only *eradicate* poverty by eradicating it *everywhere:* "no one is left behind"
 - We need to focus where it's most difficult
 - LDCs are the battleground on which the SDGs will be won or lost...
 - ...and *rural areas* in LDCs are where the battle will be hardest



is much higher in LDCs....

Poverty Headcount Ratio, 1990 and 2011 (%)



