

Course Title: Rural Development and Agrarian Change**Course Code: DVST-847****Credit Hours: 3-0****Pre-requisite Courses: None.****Course Description:**

1. Though the development 'arena' has changed considerably since rural development first rose to the fore of its agenda in the 1970s, many of its challenges remain the same: static socio-political structures, resource dependency, food and water insecurity, inadequate healthcare and education, and, increasingly, rural-to-urban migration. This course focuses on progress and change in the rural areas of developing countries. It is concerned with the factors driving rural change, how we define progress, and what can be done to affect sustainable rural development and, in doing so, eliminate poverty. It covers a broad range of themes and factors pertinent to rural development, such as land grabs, whilst repeatedly questioning the role that agriculture can and should play in this field. Students of this course will apply material from substantive lectures to analysis of policy positions about, for instance, whether and how to invest in the agricultural sector whilst also promoting the rural non-farm economy.

Course Objectives:

- a. To improve students understanding of the role and importance of rural development in today's world.
- b. To advance students' awareness of the histories of agrarian change and their impact on rural development.
- c. To encourage students to analyze existing development policies and propose solutions which are more sensitive to rural communities and their varying stakeholders.

Course Outcomes:

3. At the end of this course, students should be able to,
 - a. recognize and explain key concepts, ideas, and debates in rural development and agrarian change;
 - b. understand and evaluate the roles and contributions of various sectors, policies, institutions, and stakeholders within rural development;

- c. critically analyze historic and contemporary case studies of rural development in terms of their ability to improve rural services and attend to local needs;
- d. propose alternative policy options based on their potential impact on rural poverty, equity, economic growth, and geographic context.

Course Contents:

4. Students of this course will cover a broad range of themes relevant to understanding rural development and agrarian change. These include, but are not limited to, discussion of rural livelihoods, agricultural development, the rural non-farm economy, rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension, health and education, land reforms and land grabs, and water rights.

5. **Lab work: None.**

6. Textbooks or Reference Books:

World Bank(2003) *Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction*.World Bank Policy Research Report. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press

FAO(2003)FAO Land Tenure Series No. 6, *The Design of Land Consolidation Pilot Projects in Central and Eastern Europe*, FAO: Rome.

Singh, K. (2009) *Rural Development: Principles, Policies, and Management*. (3rd Edition). New Delhi, India: Sage Pub.

Burkey, S. (1992) *People First: A Guide to Self-Reliant, Participatory Rural Development*. London, UK: Zed Books

Hobbes, M. (2010) *Figuring Rural Development: Concepts and Cases of Land Use, Sustainability, and Integrative Indicators*. Leiden, Germany: Leiden University Press.

Razavi, S. (2002) *Shifting Burdens: Gender and Agrarian Change under Neoliberalism*. Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press

Boserup, E., Abernethy, V.D., and Kaldor, N. (2005) *The Conditions of Agricultural Growth: The Economics of Agrarian Change under Population Pressure*. Piscataway, NJ: Aldine Transaction.