

## AGRUMIG

### *Leaving something behind – Migration governance and agricultural and rural change in ‘home’ communities*



**End of Project Meeting, Brussels, 6th-7th December 2022**

### **Summary Report**

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## INTRODUCTION

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>), in collaboration with partners of the [AGRUMIG](#) project, organised an end-of-project meeting on December 6 and 7, 2022, in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting sought to examine research results and implications for policy across the project's seven focus countries – China, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, and Thailand, demonstrating how better-informed policy can support more effective migration governance. The two-day meeting – with day one focused on research results and day two on their policy implications – convened stakeholders comprising researchers, government officials, international organizations, independent non-governmental organizations, and graduate students (see attendance list in Annex 3). The meeting included presentations from project team members from various AGRUMIG countries and partners, including UN Women, panel sessions, and remarks from the European Commission and the European Parliament. The sessions were followed by plenary discussions in which participants gave feedback on various topics. Finally, there was a reflective session where participants clustered ideas on migration and development.

## FIRST DAY: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

### OPENING

Dr. Alan Nicol, Strategic Program Director – Water, Growth, and Inclusion at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), leader of Work Packages 4&5 and meeting convenor, opened the session by welcoming participants and stressing the “unpredictable and complex” process of implementing the AGRUMIG project. This was largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting fieldwork and research activities, among other things. Despite these disturbances, and conflicts breaking out in some focus countries, the project teams had proven resilient, and now after four years, could present and reflect on their results. This was a huge achievement.

### INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

Professor Tineke Strik, Professor of Citizenship and Migration Law at Radboud University and Member of the European Parliament, delivered an introductory address. She emphasized the novelty of the AGRUMIG project in linking migration governance to agrarian and rural development and how such knowledge is crucial for policymakers in the European Union (EU). The EU is keen to externalize migration policies by cooperating with sending countries to regulate migration through policy restructuring in both the EU and sending countries. According to Professor Strik, unregulated migration breeds exploitation, but an open approach to regulation that incorporates the interests of all involved parties can be beneficial. The AGRUMIG project can guide the EU to create an agenda that includes how communities can benefit from migration. For instance, the EU can design a mobility system where migrants are able to move in and out whenever they want. In this way, migrants are able to build knowledge, career, and networks in the host country and take it back to their own countries, leading to mutual exchanges and greater cooperation between states. Rather than the EU's tendency to latch on to narratives that appeal to and “feed the fears of the masses” or its “short-sighted” approach of making migration temporary and intervening in regions in Africa with demands of strengthening border controls, evidence from the AGRUMIG project can help policymakers and politicians at the EU create a more sustainable migration agenda. Thus, she concluded that

opportunities should open up to present the findings of the AGRUMIG project to the European Parliament.

## SETTING THE SCENE

Professor Peter Mollinga, Coordinator of the AGRUMIG project, gave an overview of the project to lay the groundwork for discussions to follow. He highlighted the following points:

- The AGRUMIG project looked at the impact of large-scale labour out-migration on sending regions, particularly migration from agricultural communities in rural areas to destinations that tend to be internal and international, including south-south.
- The geographical focus is 19 regions in seven countries – China, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, and Thailand.
- The impact of migration from rural areas is highly diverse across regions and countries. Thus, rather than generalising, the project sets out to uncover why the impacts manifest differently across areas; what conditions, circumstances, and causes can explain these outcomes.
- Understanding the diversity of the role of labour out-migration in agrarian and rural change is significant for policymaking, such as migration and development policy in the EU and other international organisations.
- Migrants can significantly contribute to their home regions through remittances which can reduce migration, in the long run, depending on certain conditions and circumstances, including a successful investment of these funds.
- A standardized national approach is not enough when migration plays structurally different roles in agrarian and rural change; more region-specific approaches may be called for, which is the focus of the policy interventions work package of the project.
- Current migration and agricultural and rural policies exist in isolation. The AGRUMIG project tried to address how migration policy, on the one hand, and agricultural and rural development policy, on the other hand, can be more effectively connected.

In conclusion, he reiterated Dr. Alan Nicol's remarks on the covid-19 pandemic disrupting the implementation of the AGRUMIG project in terms of timing, scope, and intensity of their field research data collection and, in particular, the holding of stakeholder meetings. Yet, at the same time, the Covid-19 pandemic presented an opportunity to see how structural systems for migration can change, but then bounce back to normal.

## THE WIDER CONTEXT

Dr. Kerilyn Schewel of Duke University and Senior Researcher at the International Migration Institute (IMI) elaborated on the existing methodological and theoretical gaps, some of which the AGRUMIG research project sought to address with its focus on rural places and policy implications.

### *Methodological gaps*

- Migration is informed by wider social, economic, technological, and political transformations rather than the narrow neoclassical assumptions revolving around poverty and underdevelopment.
- There is a narrow focus on international migration, particularly on south-north migration, which obscures how development shapes internal and international migration.

- The focus is on volumes of migration to the neglect of how development shapes the composition, timing, and geographical scope of migration.
- The focus is on short-term empirical research making it difficult to understand the broad scheme of long-term change.
- Data gaps limit the ability to hypothesize the link between development processes and migration.

#### *Theoretical gaps*

- There is a failure to conceptualise migration as a structural or intrinsic part of wider development processes; and there is concentration of theoretical and empirical attention on the drivers and consequences of migration.
- The drivers and consequences of immobility, social and economic mechanisms of migration transitions, and the role of states and policies in migration processes, as well as the linkages between migration and other development processes, are largely under-theorised.

## **OVERVIEW OF KEY FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF THE AGRUMIG PROJECT**

Dr. Fraser Sugden of the University of Birmingham and leader of Work Packages 2 & 3 gave an overview of the key findings across the 19 sites of the 7 AGRUMIG countries, answering the main questions on the context and underlying causes under which migration occurs and how the processes of labour out-migration impact the trajectory of rural change. Dr. Sugden highlighted the following findings.

#### *Context and underlying causes of migration*

In summary, the immediate decision to migrate is mediated by personal factors but this takes place within a wider context of ecological and economic stressors. Specifically:

- Rising demand for cash for agricultural production, healthcare and education, changing consumption patterns, and living standards.
- Climate change creating additional stressors that compound economic and ecological change and not necessarily climate-induced migration.
- Decreasing land holdings and rural underemployment.
- Cultural change in the sense of young people increasingly aspiring to modernised/globalised identities due to social media; migration as a 'rite of passage' rather than borne out of economic necessity.

#### *Impact on rural change*

- Critical labour shortages for key agricultural tasks impacting cropping practices, technology, and land use as the search for labour alternatives rises.
- Remittances are invested in basic necessities; productive assets such as high-value technology from rain-fed to irrigated agriculture or large-scale commercial production, or investments in businesses or enterprises, land, and livestock. However, there are inequalities in migration outcomes as in reality only a small number are able to accumulate wealth and invest.
- Funding for the migration process is likely to leave some migrants, such as those from Thailand and Nepal, in debt as they take significant loans to travel overseas.

- A policy implication is to begin to see the influence that migration has on rural change to accentuate positives while also dealing with the inequalities that ensue.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION LED BY DR. PACEM KOCHOFA**

Dr. Pacem Kochofa of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI – Ethiopia) and meeting co-convenor steered the panellists – Dr. Aree Champakai (Thailand), Ms. Badia Aarab (Morocco), Dr. Asel Murzakulova (Kyrgyzstan), Dr. Wang Jianjun (China), Dr. Aida Awel (Ethiopia), to discuss the research findings and implications for migration governance in different countries. Below are the highlights of the discussion.

- There is a need to harmonize policies across sectors such as agriculture, employment, migration, and education in Africa.
- Create governance systems that give migrants options to stay or leave.
- There are usually cultural changes that occur as a result of migration which can be both positive and negative and should be reflected in the discussions.
- In Kyrgyzstan, migration policies are not considerate of rural development; the focus is on migrants' rights protection and the development of investor potential for the Kyrgyzstani diaspora.
- Research shows people migrate for different reasons; therefore, there needs to be a shift from general narratives to regional and province-specificities.
- The effects of migration are more complex – seek out opportunities to discuss migrants as agents of massive rural change.
- Thailand experiences internal migration and receives many migrants (refugees) from Myanmar and Cambodia; policy should therefore incorporate the inflows and outflows of migration patterns.
- Morocco needs a systematic approach interconnecting migration policies with other social policies.

## **COUNTRY INSIGHTS**

Teams from the seven AGRUMIG countries presented individual country findings elaborating on the key messages and learnings presented by Dr. Fraser Sugden and answering the main questions concerning the context and underlying causes of migration, impact on rural change, and policy implications (See annex 2: individual country findings).

## **INSIGHTS FROM QUALITATIVE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

Professor Peter Mollinga presented insights into qualitative comparative analysis (QCA). He explained that QCA and context, mechanisms, and outcomes (CMO) reasoning are methods to clarify under what conditions certain outcomes occur. QCA makes sense of how combinations of conditions are associated with a particular outcome rather than having independent variables. A comparative approach allows distinction between relevant and non-relevant conditions, and the nineteen regions and seven countries were chosen to maximise diversity and to make such comparison easier. Professor Mollinga further reported on the progress of carrying out this part of the AGRUMIG research. He stated the following;

- The QCA team initially planned to capture comparative topics, including livelihood strategies, farming systems, empowerment and disempowerment of gender, youth and the elderly, village and community institutions, public service provision, and rural-urban relations to get an encompassing view of rural change
- However, the pandemic's disruption of fieldwork led to a focus on one question: What is the role of migration in regional-level agrarian and rural change?
- The analysis followed by deciding on the outcomes, identifying the mechanisms, relevant conditions, and combinations of conditions.
- Preliminary findings showed that the role of migration in agrarian/rural change is diverse. The role of migration is categorised into transformative, reproductive, or migration that does not play any particular role, especially when compared against other factors.
- A range of mechanisms and seventeen preliminary conditions have been identified, spanning economic, institutional/political, cultural, material, or environmental conditions

### Discussion

- **Regions do not exist in isolation – and regions cannot be treated as independent entities.** Therefore the QCA is not treating regions as independent entities. The team will formulate a number of conditions that capture the situatedness vis-a-vis other regions.
- **Regions are not only agrarian; there are other activities, e.g., agritourism projects.** This is considered and appears as, for example, investment opportunities in their analysis. However, the data tend to gravitate towards agriculture because extensive data collection has not been done. The initial idea was to formulate questions that capture rural change more broadly, but given the data, that may not be possible right now.
- **The complicated nature of the QCA method tries to capture the actual complexities of the sector.** It argues for a non-reductionist approach to this topic, trying to find a way to give space to the different causalities, processes, and histories.
- **Is history necessarily reductionist?** Reductionism means you see the world from one perspective and think that is essentially the most important. For instance, focusing on the economic 1990s neoliberal agenda, or “get institutions right and everything will be fine” approaches, etc. Reductionism disappears in a combined approach – the question is not which of these is the most important, but how they combine in different ways to make sense of the outcomes or results.

## FIRST DAY CONCLUSIONS

The first day ended with a short panel session led by Dr. Alan Nicol to reflect on the learning points and future actions featuring Dr. Irina Kuznetsova (UK), Dr. Amzil Lahoucine (Morocco), Prof. Supang Chantawanich (Thailand), Mr. Eyob Defersha (Ethiopia) as panellists. The panellists provided thoughts on the following questions: *are all migrants labour migrants? Is the term labour migration problematic, or do we need a nuanced approach to the way we categorise migration? How should migration policy work/ how much government intervention should be expected?*

- The label ‘labour migrant’ is simplistic – people’s biographies are much more complex. What will you call, for example, migration borne out of necessity (such as to pay a debt, for a sick child)?
- Migration patterns are changing. In Thailand, the older generations migrated in their forties. Contemporarily, people migrate in their twenties because of education or reluctance to do farm work.

- Migration is a livelihood strategy.
- Migrants return to the farm, do farm-related business or engage in non-farm activities. Remittances are used for farm-related activities – agroforestry and opening a shop.
- Interventions should cover pre-orientation before migration, agricultural policies, and institutional support and emigration governance.
- Dr. Alan Nicol thanked the contributors and closed the first-day meeting.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND DAY

Dr. Nicol introduced the participants to the second day's meeting and its focus on policy: how, where, and why does AGRUMIG engage in policy environments? How can research findings that were the focus of day one be translated into policies? He stated that the day would see reflections from representatives of the EU and UN Women, country teams, as well as individual participant reflections.

## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

Mr. Ron Hendrix, Program Manager for Migration, Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission, gave an introductory address. These are the key points:

- Over the years, the EU has developed a comprehensive and balanced EU approach to migration – based on development, partnership, and mutual benefit approach for sending transit, and destination countries and the migrants and their families.
- Through the implementation of plans such as training national authorities, civil society organisations (CSOs), and regional organisations, the EU Labour migration policies have been implemented at global, regional, and sub-regional levels.
- Legal labour migration requires migrants' qualifications and skills to be recognised and used to the maximum. But the EU does not have a framework for the recognition of the skills of non-EU citizens. Each EU member state has its own rules and procedures to recognise skills.
- It is important that skills migrants have gained in destinations can be used back home otherwise the result may be just a brain drain on sending communities.
- Labour migrants support countries of origin – through remittances – both monetary and non-monetary.
- With the Agenda for EU Development, labour migration is linked to development cooperation.
  - The EU needs to extend its partners beyond government and regional organisations to include CSOs and the diaspora.
  - To improve legal migration set up labour migration schemes including pre-departure training, as well as country of destinations providing access to health and pension benefits; and support reintegration of returned migrants.
  - Fair recruitment – one should not have to pay before being able to work in another country.

In conclusion, EU development cooperation would have to continue to play a role in addressing migration, in full respect of development objectives and principles as recognised by the EU consensus on development. Research such as AGRUMIG is useful in considering new insights and learnings from partner countries.

## Q&A session

The following were the key points raised:

***What is the role of employers in collaborating to evaluate the skills and qualifications of workers?***

- Recognition of skills is the biggest challenge in the EU. Depending on the profession, the procedures are very long and difficult. The EU supports initiatives in partner countries that ensure migrants' skills are already recognised before they migrate, perhaps through undertaking pre-departure training. It is still a challenge, but the EU aims to establish a framework for this purpose.

***In terms of fair recruitment: do seasonal workers enjoy social welfare benefits? Do they have similar benefits as EU citizens?***

- If you work in the EU legally, you have the same benefits as an EU citizen.
- The possibility of social security depends on the legislation of EU member countries.
- If you work for 5 years in a European country, you can get a residence permit; they want to improve this and enhance mobility within the EU once you have permanent residence.

***The majority of migration in Africa is irregular- what is the EU doing about the lack of opportunities pushing this irregularity, also considering the EU's aging population and the youth population in Africa?***

- The EU supports a free movement protocol in West Africa with ECOWAS, IOM, and ILO.
- There is also talent partnership – a broad framework with individual countries to enhance general cooperation on migration management and to recruit to the EU, but it is still limited.
- The EU is indeed aging. There isn't a problem with high-skilled labour but with low-skilled. The member states, however, are still to accept migration as a possibility.

***There are talks about Afghanistan and Ukraine and the consequences – is the EU still interested in Central Asia? Whatever happens in Afghanistan affects central Asia.***

- Central Asia is not lost at the EU despite the focus on curbing the crisis in Ukraine.

**PRESENTATION: United Nations (UN) WOMEN**

Dr. Inkeri Von Hase, the Global Coordinator of the Making Migration Safe for Women Project, gave a presentation on the importance of gender-responsive migration governance. Below are the key points of her presentation.

- The intersection between women and migration: women make-up half of international migrants; most of whom work and send half of all remittances; women face sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during their migration journey and are often victims of trafficking for sexual and labour expectations.
- Women migrate for reasons similar to men but experience migration in different ways. These experiences include poverty, conflict, persecution; limited technology/productive inputs to engage in agriculture; sexual and domestic violence; peer pressure; to improve status and autonomy, skills, power relationships.
- Gendered risks during migration include gender-blind migration policies, risk of exploitation and abuse, discrimination, trafficking, SGBV, racism, and underestimation and they may not be able to access services such as after sexual violence.
- The importance of gender-responsive migration governance at every stage of migration cannot be underestimated and this has been part of the work of UN Women.



- Policies need to address the specific needs by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. There must be advocacy of gender-responsive migration governance and implementation policies on the ground.

The UN Women Secretariat and the Making Migration Safe for Women (MMS) project seek to

- Develop and strengthen migration policies
- Protect women migrants themselves
- Support gender-responsive governance at national levels

### Q&A session

- Apart from their vulnerability, discourses on migration should include the agency of women, such as the positive impact of women migrants, including sending remittances back home. Services should empower women to engage in positive migration.
- *What is the UN women's intervention in dealing with the ability to return home of Moroccan women in Spain?* If there are some labour violations, these should be reported, but she understands that it becomes difficult if they are undocumented. In all, she has insufficient information on the case to give a concrete answer.

### AGRUMIG'S POLICY FOCUS

Dr. Pacem Kotchofa from IWMI – Ethiopia presented how the AGRUMIG project is tackling the policy component under WP4&5. She stated that large-scale-out migration has a diverse impacts on both sending and receiving communities. The policy element identifies policies and interventions to channel migration and its outcomes for better rural impact. The project used a wide range of methods, including household surveys, literature reviews, policy dialogues, and QCA, to generate insights for better migration programming.

Key observable trends in the seven countries were as follows:

- Migrants send monetary remittances and bring back skills, but communities can be resistant to making use of those new skill sets.
- Strengthening the capacity of migrants – pre-departure training can equip migrants before they migrate.
- Lack of data to track the number of migrants and returned migrants.
- Gender perspectives are important.
- The left behind: there are consequences for children and the burdening of women.
- Limited resources and non-farm opportunities: how water can be used to curb climate change and may compound other stressors that drive migration.
- Address interdependent problem areas: connecting migration policies with other development policies.

### TAKING FORWARD POLICY INSIGHTS FROM AGRUMIG RESEARCH

Prof. Peter Mollinga and Ms. Raffaella Pagogna co-moderated a session with Dr. Keshav Bashyal (Nepal), Mr. Ulan Nogoibaev (Kyrgyzstan), Ms. Anna Gherganova (Moldova), Mr. Sileshi Bekele (Ethiopia), Ms. Hanane El Baraka (Morocco), Ms. Rachel Bayani (Belgium) as panellists. The panellists responded to the policy challenges of capturing the role of migration in the processes of rural and

agrarian change: *what are the biggest challenges when it comes to making policies concerning the nexus between migration, mobility, and rural change?*

Responses:

- In Nepal, the covid pandemic caused some migrants to return to their countries which triggered rethinking in government circles. They had to find these returnees a place and livelihood and reintegrate them temporarily into society.
- However, in Morocco, the covid 19 pandemic has not done much to change how we treat migrants. The Covid 19 illustrated the worst aspects of how migrants are treated depending on the different classes of migrants and different nationalities.

*Who are the stakeholders? If you are not a government official, how to engage policy, including at the regional level.*

- The ministries of interior and foreign affairs have joint thinking on different levels to find synergies.
- Migration strategies coming from the EU were analysed and one aspect that was missing was the impact of European policies on migrants' countries of origin. Because the rural component of migratory flow is so significant, they have started to look at the links between migration and agriculture at the joint research center at the EU and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN.
- The EU deploys different dimensions. EU Agriculture policies on rural realities and countries of origin. *What is the role of migrants in EU agriculture? What is the role of youth aspirations and rural knowledge generation?*
- *In the African-Europe partnership – how is the rural area represented?* In Ethiopia, agriculture is dependent on the elderly; how can youth be incorporated? We can decrease irregular migration through agricultural development and coordinating the activities of the refugee and returnee agency, women and social affairs, ministry of labour and skills, ministry of agriculture, and ministry of justice
- *How do you see the possibility of returned migrants contributing to vibrant rural development processes?* It is not sustainable to think only about agricultural policies but how to develop rural areas in general. In Moldova, several programs have been developed dedicated to migrants working abroad, and they are implementing projects to develop the agricultural sector.
- *How can we bring the discourse back to the role of migration in agriculture and rural change in Morocco?* Reintegration of returned migrants into societies through rural development projects and the role of returned migrants in regional development governance and decision making, as well as using migrants from the regions to assist in the marketing of products, investing in rural activities in the region and supporting vulnerable migrants who may not have the resources to return.
- Reporting on the ongoing negotiations and agreements between the EU countries and Morocco, local and regional platforms are created for a better connection for national policy.

## COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

The teams from the seven AGRUMIG countries China, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal & Thailand, Ethiopia, Morocco, and Moldova presented their migration action planning focusing on ways of strengthening migration governance in their individual countries (See **Annex 2** for highlights of these presentations).

## GROUP WORK

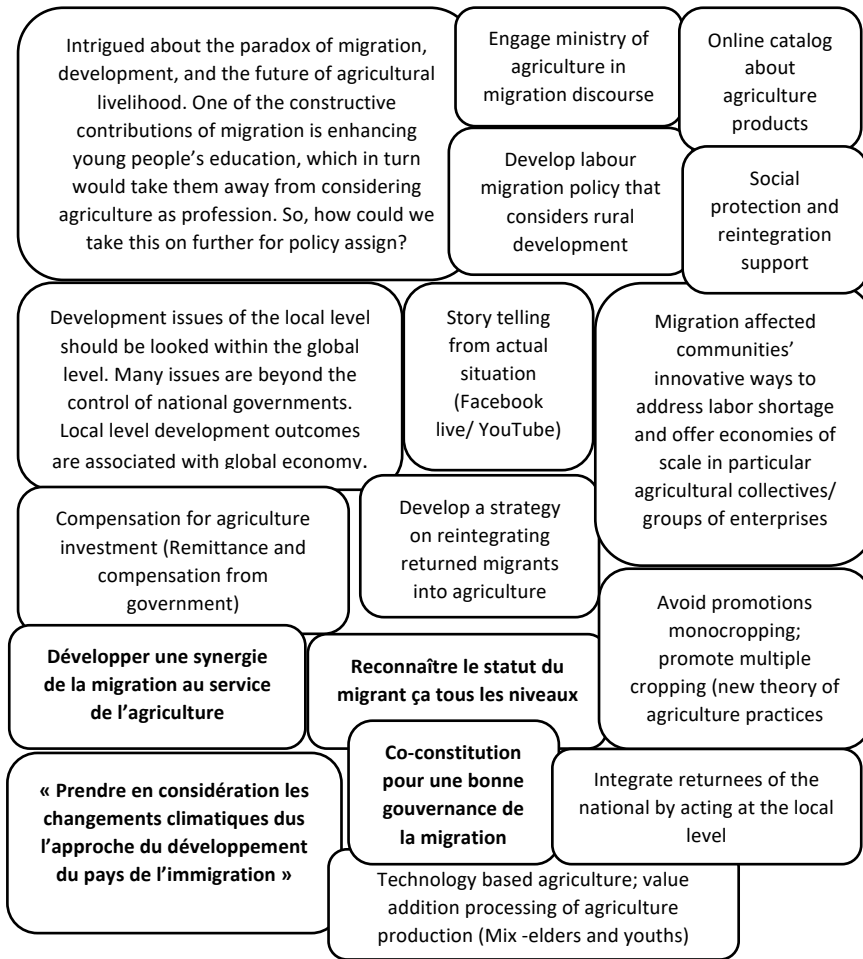
Subsequently, there was a reflective moment where participants clustered emerging big policy ideas (**see Annex 1**) on migration and development that address local, national and international challenges. This was moderated by Dr. Pacem Kotchofa (IWMI) and Ms. Angela Haynes (SOAS).

## CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Mollinga, commenting on the cluster of ideas, stated that the reason the global, non-rural part is full, and the rural bottom is empty could be that there are no farmers and social activists in the meeting or that the AGRUMIG meeting was an example of the international policy meetings that deliberate the problems many people in the world are facing. He thanked all the participants for the collaboration and connections that they have forged and hoped that these would continue even though the project is ending.

In his closing remarks, MR. Ron Hendrix of the European Commission said that the meeting had been inspiring. He had learned a lot as the integration of agricultural and rural development with migration policies was new to him. He encouraged the project teams to share reports with him so that he can also share them with his colleagues at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). Dr. Nicol made the final closing remarks. He thanked his IWMI colleagues, the technical team, translators, and especially the LP Brussels and his Director, Mr. Mark Watts, for the successful partnership built in developing and convening the meeting. He also thanked the European Union, Horizon 2020, and project officers for funding the project. Lastly, he thanked the participants for their active involvement in the meeting. The meeting ended at 5:30 pm.

### ANNEX 1: EMERGING CLUSTER OF IDEAS



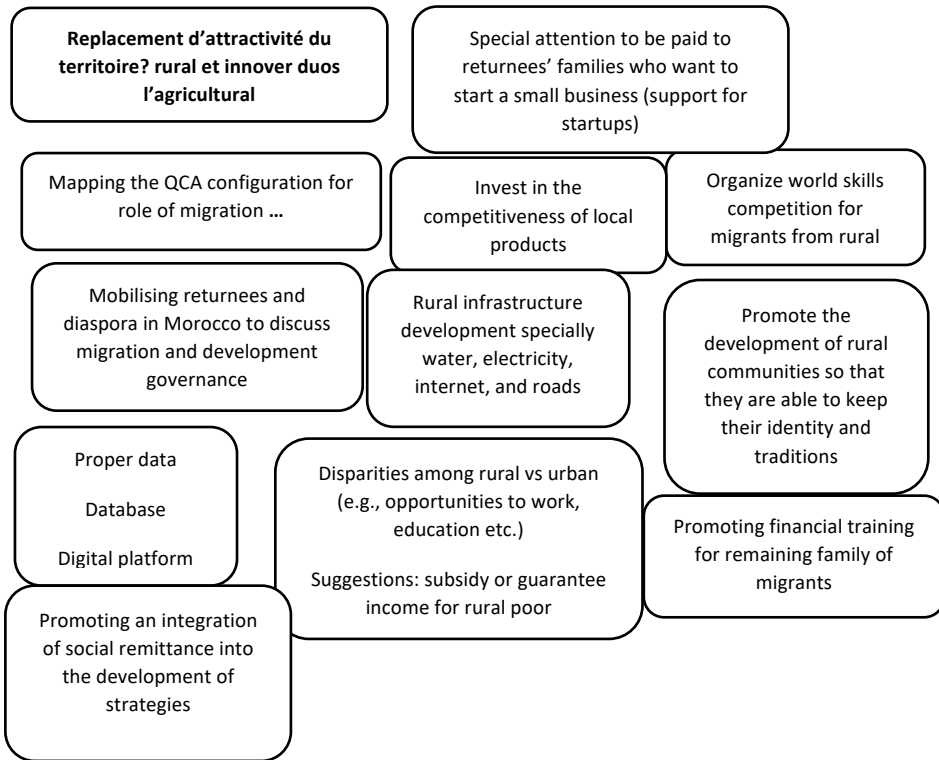
AGRICUTURAL

### GLOBAL



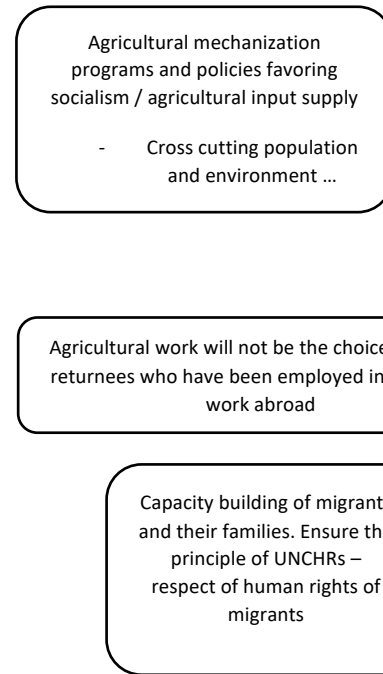
NON-AGRICUTURAL

**RURAL**

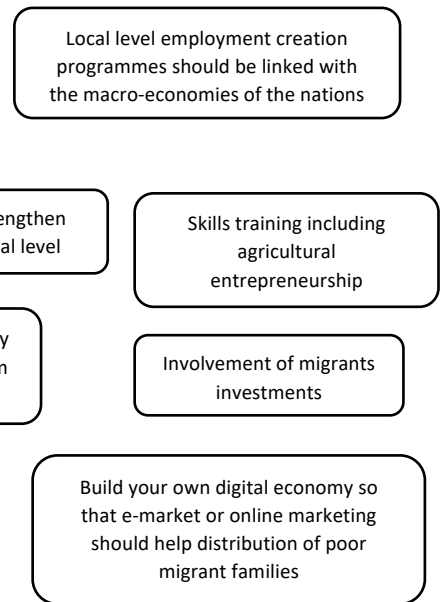


**AGRICULTURAL**

**NATIONAL**



**NON-RURAL**



**NON-AGRICULTURAL**

## ANNEX 2: INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY FINDINGS

Countries/ Findings	DAY 1: Research findings – Drivers and impact of migration on the rural economy	DAY 2: Policy Implications/ Migration Action Planning
Kyrgyzstan Dr. Asel Murzakulova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration as a strategy for farmers</li> <li>• Remittances invested in livestock</li> <li>• Migration has had changes in crop cultivation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions cluster around institutional, agroecological, economic, educational and cultural programs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Help policy makers to develop an integrated migration and agricultural policy</li> <li>○ Promote the rights migrants and families left behind</li> <li>○ Promote business initiatives of migrants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Nepal Dr. Arjun Kharel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers of migration include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land access and other agricultural-related challenges (markets for products); vegetable farming not able to keep livelihoods;</li> <li>○ Changing food preferences – such as imported rice consumption;</li> <li>○ Family debt;</li> <li>○ Perceived higher income;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nepal has a remittance-dependent economy</li> <li>• Remittance is used to pay off family debt or invest in areas outside their communities</li> </ul>	<p>In line with the research finding, initiatives cover the areas of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration governance such as controlling migration costs</li> <li>• Remittance transfer – using remittances productively</li> <li>• Agriculture and reintegration of returnees – access to productive resources such as agricultural inputs, land, markets</li> </ul>
China Dr. Fengbo Chan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China’s large-scale rural migration from inland to coastal areas began in the 1990s with no gender difference, leaving behind the elderly and children.</li> <li>• Labour cost has increased.</li> <li>• Mechanisation of agriculture is increasing.</li> <li>• Commercial farming has become popular.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are many policy interventions in the past 20 years on land, agriculture, medical and pension schemes</li> <li>• Not much has been done on the action plan due to covid restriction on data collection but they are planning to do an evaluation of the existing policies and make policy recommendations to the government</li> <li>• They will concentrate on local government giving their strength in local communities in China</li> </ul>
Thailand Ms. Raffaella Pagogna Dr. Sapon Naruchaikusol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration as a livelihood strategy – households receive remittances to cover daily household expenses with little investment in agriculture or entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Migration is a coping mechanism for economic and environmental stress.</li> <li>• Migration is a driver and outcome of rural change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-departure and post-migration training</li> <li>• create a migration database</li> <li>• integrate migration with rural development strategies</li> <li>• Reintegration initiatives for returnees</li> </ul>

<p>Ethiopia Dr. Mengistu Dessaiegn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reintegration policies for returned migrants lacking.</li> <li>• Land shortages</li> <li>• Climate/environmental stress _ rain fluctuation</li> <li>• Diverse rural expenses and necessities and agriculture cannot finance these</li> <li>• Migration alleviates the problem of access to land; it reduces conflicts and competition</li> <li>• Migration is part of rural livelihood and interwoven with agriculture</li> <li>• Remittances are used for food production, and diverse rural expenses- education, health,</li> <li>• Migration leads to women being overburdened but it also increases their independent decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration policies should be integrated into regional and national agricultural and rural development policies,</li> <li>• Create initiatives for the productive use of remittances</li> <li>• Livelihood diversification – broad schemes including non-farm</li> <li>• Overseas mobility and reintegration– engage private sector or agencies; skills training,</li> <li>• Cross-sectoral linkages – pool resources through coordination, working groups</li> </ul>
<p>Morocco Professor Mohammed Aderghal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour migration – better opportunities elsewhere mainly in Europe because of traditional relationships – Italy and Spain and the Mediterranean and continues to widen</li> <li>• Young peasants not only rural-urban, but brain drain to other parts of the world - widened to US and Canada</li> <li>• Women are increasingly also migrating as a result of cultural change in society to express themselves outside the traditional strict and they are striving for autonomy abroad – a circular migration at play.</li> <li>• Fragmented migration and rural development policies</li> <li>• Numerous and uncoordinated actors and governance instruments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take into account identities such as age, gender, family status</li> <li>• Review the role of civil society in migration governance and give more autonomy to Moroccan civil society</li> <li>• Moroccan and EU co-production of migration policies</li> <li>• Integrate migration and local and regional development policies</li> </ul>
<p>Moldova Dr. Matteo Masotti</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Europeanisation of migration and those going to Russia: EU cultural aspects resonate with the young, and the older generations prefer to go to Russia for language ease</li> <li>• Return migrants – educated coming back because they cannot integrate into economic and life system of the receiver</li> <li>• Lack of economic opportunities drives migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a vicious cycle- lack of economic opportunities drives outmigration which in turn decreases economic opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Migrant jobs both agricultural and non-agricultural are not related to what they studied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livelihood strategies - increase opportunities in other non-agriculture areas</li> <li>• Adapting education to the need of national economic development</li> <li>• Encouraging rural entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Infrastructure development</li> <li>• Integration initiatives</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remittances are used to finance agricultural activities</li><li>• Agriculture is not the only alternative to migration</li></ul> |  |
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### Annex 3: Attendance List

AGRUMIG END-OF-PROJECT MEETING BRUSSELS, 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

No	Countries	Title	Full Name	Institution
1	Ethiopia	Dr.	Mengistu Dessalegn	IWMI
2	Ethiopia	Dr.	Pacem Kotchofa	IWMI
3	Ethiopia	Mr.	Tariku Bezabih	SNNPRS Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs
4	Ethiopia	Ms.	Aida Awel	International Labor Organization (ILO)
5	Kyrgyzstan	Ms.	Zhamilia Kiiizbaeva	National Institute for Strategic Studies
6	Kyrgyzstan	Mr.	Batyrbek Shukurov	Local council of Batken
7	Moldova	Ms.	Galina Petrachi	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
8	Moldova	Ms.	Diana Cosalic	Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture
9	Moldova	Ms.	Irina Luncasu	Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova
10	Moldova	Ms.	Anna Gherganova	Ministry of labour and social protection
11	Moldova	Mr.	Petru Sorici	Niscani, Calarasi
12	Moldova	Ms.	Marina Bunduchi	Diaspora Relations Bureau
13	Morocco	Ms.	Hanane El Baraka	ONG Progettomondo
14	Morocco	Mr.	Dahbani Ibrahim	Crossroads Association for Development and Migration (CARDEV)
15	Morocco	Ms.	Badia Aarab	Fédération Nationale du Secteur Agricole (FNSA )
16	Morocco	Ms.	Zoubida ben Ali	Agricultural services
17	Morocco	Mr.	Hassan Hallou	
18	Morocco	Mr.	Youssef Ait Lamkadem	
19	Nepal	Dr.	Dwarika Upreti	Foreign Employment Board
20	Nepal	Ms.	Nita Pokhrel	People's Forum for Human Rights
21	Nepal	Dr.	Keshav Bashyal	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security
22	Nepal	Mr.	Dev Chandra Rai	
23	Thailand	Prof. Dr.	Supang Chantawanich	Chulalongkorn University (Asian Research Centre on Migration)
24	Thailand	Dr.	Aree Champakai	Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University
25	Thailand	Dr.	Yongyuth Chalamwong	Thailand Development Research Institution (TDRI)
26	Thailand	Mr.	Anuthep Sridawruang	Udothani Provincial Employment
27	UK	Dr.	Alan Nicol	IWMI
28	USA	Dr.	Kerilyn Schewel	Duke University - International Migration Insititue (IMI)
29	Ethiopia	Mr.	Sileshi Bekele	Ministry of Labor & Skills Development
30	Kyrgyzstan	Mr.	Ulan Nogoibaev	Kyrgyz Republic Parliament
31	Austria	Ms.	Raffaella Pagogna	Univie
32	Ethiopia	Dr.	Behailu Gello	Arba Minch University

33	Ethiopia	Dr.	Eyob Defersha	Arba Minch University
34	Ethiopia	Mr.	Abel Gebregzihaber	Ministry of Labor & Skills Development
35	Moldova	Mr.	Alexandru Stratan	INCE
36	Morocco	Dr.	Mohammed Aderghal	UM5R
37	Morocco	Dr.	Lahoucine Amzil	UM5R
38	Nepal	Dr.	Arjun Kharel	CESLAM
39	Thailand	Dr.	Boonthida Ketsomboon	RTF
40	Thailand	Dr.	Sopon Naruchaikusol	RTF
41	UK	Prof.	Peter Mollinga	SOAS
42	UK	Dr.	Angela Haynes	SOAS
43	UK	Dr.	Irina Kuznetsova	University of Birmingham
44	UK	Dr.	Fraser Sugden	University of Birmingham
45	Belgium	Ms.	Rachel Bayani	Baha'i International Community, Brussels Representative
46	Belgium	Mr.	Mark Watts	LP Brussels
47	Belgium	Ms.	Chiara De Caro	LP Brussels
48	The Netherlands	Prof.	Tineke Strik	Radboud University - Member of the <b>European Parliament</b>
49	Namibia	Ms.	Inkeri von hase	UN Women
50	Denmark	Ms.	Esther Wahabu	Aalborg University
51	Kyrgyzstan	Dr.	Elmira Nogoibaeva	Polis Asia
52	Belgium		Sandrine REVERSAT	International Relations Officer DG HOME
53	Belgium		HENDRIX RON	Agreed to speak first thing second day.
54	Belgium		Michail MOSCHOVAKOS	AGRUMIG Policy Officer
55	Belgium		Eugenia STRANZA	AGRUMIG Project Officer