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rural areas; Agricultural development and related parameters  
Planning for rural developmentChapter Five - Stemming Rural Exodus;  
Urbanisation and Rural - Urban Exodus; Rural - Urban Linkages;  
Overcoming the Urban-Rural Divide; Environmental linkages and the  
countryside; Provision of rural infrastructure and services; Rural - to -  
Urban Migration; Strategies to arrest rural exodus; Chapter Six -  
Decentralisation and the Scope for Regional Rural Development; Post-  
independence rural development strategies; Resources for local and  
participative development; New Political Framework for Rural  
Development; Regional Rural Development Planning (RRP)  
Accountability for local development fundsChapter Seven - Models and  
Strategies for Rural Settlement Planning; Structural land and holdings;  
The Planning Levels; The Planning Process; Characteristics of new  
agricultural development areas; Stages in the development of  
integrated agricultural projects; Main Components of Rural Settlement  
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for Sustainable Local Development; Decentralization; Regionalization;  
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Planning with Regional InstitutionsLessons from the Current Wave of  
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Sommario/riassunto

Despite rapid urbanisation, Africa remains predominantly rural. This calls for decentralisation beyond the dominant concern by states and government with urban spaces. Rural areas, rural development and the future of rural settlements need to be understood and addressed in the context of the ongoing democratisation trends and the emergence and development of civil society. States have tended to tame rather than serve civil society in Africa. By establishing a single cultural reference and imposing a centralised state, African governments have exacerbated the fragmentation of civil society. How

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