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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Acronyms and Abbreviations -- Chapter 1: The Rural Economy's Contribution to Development: Summary of Findings and Policy Implications -- 1.1 Policy implications -- 1.2 Summary of findings -- 1.3 Conclusions: The need for institutional reforms -- 1.4 Report organization -- Notes -- Part I: The Rural Contribution to Development: Analytical Issues -- Chapter 2: How Do We Define the Rural Sector? -- 2.1 How big is the RNR sector? -- 2.2 RNR sector composition based on national accounts -- 2.3 What do rural people do? Rural poverty, employment, and income sources -- 2.4 How many people really live in rural areas? -- Notes -- Annex A -- Annex B -- Annex C -- Chapter 3: From Accounting to Economics: The Rural Natural Resource Sector's Contribution to Development -- 3.1

RNR activities and welfare: Analytical framework -- 3.2 The RNR sector and economic growth -- 3.3 The RNR sector and income of the poorest households -- 3.4 The RNR sector and the environment -- 3.5 The RNR sector and macroeconomic volatility -- 3.6 The RNR sector's contribution to Latin American and Caribbean welfare and beyond -- Notes -- Chapter 4: The Promise of the Spatial Approach -- 4.1 The spatial approach: A new fad or old concerns? -- 4.2 The extensive menu of concepts that justify spatial development programs -- 4.3 The spatial approach complements the sectoral approach -- 4.4 The spatial approach is promising: New evidence -- 4.5 Summary of analytical findings -- Notes -- Part II: The Rural Contribution to Development: Policy Issues -- Chapter 5: Public Expenditures, RNR Productivity, and Development -- 5.1 National welfare and the allocation of public expenditures -- 5.2 Are there policy biases in Latin American and Caribbean countries against rural development? -- 5.3 Disparities in the per capita spending level in urban and rural areas -- 5.4 Does excessive urban concentration harm RNR activities and the rural economy? -- 5.5 Sources of RNR productivity growth in Latin American and Caribbean countries -- Notes -- Chapter 6: Policy and the Competitiveness of Agriculture: Trade, Research & Development, and Land Markets -- 6.1 The international trade regime, country trade policies, and the RNR sector -- 6.2 Latin American and Caribbean public provision of agricultural R&D -- 6.3 Identifying socially desirable public policies for rural land markets -- Notes -- Chapter 7: Enhancing the Contribution of Rural Economic Activities to National Development: Rural Finance and Infrastructure Services -- 7.1 What role should the government play in rural finance and development? -- 7.2 Infrastructure investments for regional development and the poor -- Notes -- Chapter 8: Promoting Economic and Social Development in Poor Regions: Direct Income Supports, Environmental Services, and Tourism -- 8.1 Compensation for trade liberalization and targeted anti-poverty support -- 8.2 Policies to enhance the contribution of rural environmental services -- 8.3 Rural tourism and public support -- Notes -- Chapter 9: Policy Challenges of the Spatial Approach: From Promise to Reality -- 9.1 Introduction -- 9.2 Government and community roles in enhancing the rural contribution to development -- 9.3 Policy evaluation -- 9.4 The promising future of Latin American and Caribbean regional development policies -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Boxes -- Chapter 1 -- 1.1 Five critical policy questions for Latin American and Caribbean economic authorities -- 1.2 Main findings -- Chapter 3 -- 3.1 Beyond GDP: Accounting for the effect of RNR activities on national welfare -- 3.2 The relationship between RNR GDP share and development. -- 3.3 Rural-urban migration in Bolivia -- 3.4 The sectorial approach to illicit crop eradication in Andean countries, 1980-2002 -- Chapter 4 -- 4.1 The territorial approach to illicit crop eradication -- Chapter 5 -- 5.1 Empirical translog production functions -- 5.2 Empirical farm-level production functions -- Chapter 6 -- 6.1 Welfare effects of the introduction of genetically modified organisms in Argentina and Mexico -- 6.2 Genetically modified organism generation options in tropical Latin American and Caribbean countries -- Chapter 7 -- 7.1 What market failures are relevant to rural finance? -- 7.2 Governance criteria for public rural financial services -- 7.3 Risk management approaches of farmers and other rural producers -- 7.4 Weather indices and area yield for crop insurance programs -- Chapter 8 -- 8.1 Direct payments to producers -- 8.2 CCT programs in Latin America -- 8.3 Agricultural tourism in Colombia -- Chapter 9 -- 9.1 Macro models used to evaluate EU cohesion funds -- Figures -- Chapter 1 -- 1.1 Official and

consistent estimates of the Latin America and Caribbean rural population share -- 1.2 Cumulative population distributions by distance to major Latin American and Caribbean cities -- 1.3 Agriculture's GDP share diminishes as countries develop (RNR sectors' GDP share and income per capita, 1960-2002) -- 1.4 RNR growth has positive effects on the overall economy in developing countries (impact of a 1 percent increase in RNR GDP on the rest of the national economy the following year) -- 1.5 Geographic distances to major cities relative to wages after economic reforms in Brazil -- 1.6 Mexican state GDP per capita relative to the federal district, 1940-2000 -- 1.7 Regional GDP per capita in Colombia as a share of Bogota's, 1960-96 -- Chapter 2. 2.1 RNR exports per rural person and agricultural labor productivity, 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries, 2001 -- 2.2 Relationships between remoteness, population density, and poverty in Nicaragua -- 2.3 Population density in Latin America and the Caribbean -- 2.4 Cumulative population distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean relative to distance from a major city -- 2.5 Cumulative population distribution in Brazil relative to distance from a major city -- 2.6 Proportion of population that have more than one hour travel time to a city of 100,000 people and that are below the specified population density thresholds -- 2.7 Census rurality measures compared to definition of < 150 person per square kilometer and > 1 hour travel time criteria -- Chapter 3 -- 3.1 RNR sector's GDP share and GDP growth, 1960-2002 -- 3.2 RNR sector's GDP share and income per capita (annual data from 1960-2002) -- 3.3 Impact of a 1 percent increase in RNR GDP on the rest of the national economy the following year -- 3.4 Impact of a 1 percent increase in non-RNR GDP on the RNR sector -- 3.5 Impact of a 1 percent increase in RNR plus food industries' GDP on the rest of the national economy the following year -- 3.6 CO₂ emissions and RNR activities around the world, 1971-2000 -- 3.7 Freshwater withdrawals and RNR activities around the world, 2000 -- 3.8 Deforestation and RNR activities around the world, 2000 -- 3.9 RNR activities and deforestation sources in Latin American and Caribbean countries between 1990 and 2000 -- 3.10 Deforestation and potential agricultural lands in Latin American and Caribbean countries, 2000 -- 3.11 The ecological footprints of South American agriculture, 2000 -- Chapter 4 -- 4.1 Path dependency in Brazilian frontier settlements: Econometric evidence -- Chapter 5 -- 5.1 Urban primacy levels in the Americas, 1960-2000. 5.2 Illiteracy and fertilizer use per worker -- Chapter 7 -- 7.1 Assessing the performance of rural financial institutions -- Tables -- Chapter 1 -- 1.1 Commodity agricultural production values in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries (percent of national GDP) -- 1.2 Nonagricultural income in rural Latin American and Caribbean households -- 1.3 Agricultural and nonagricultural GDP growth rates (annual averages for 1970-99, data at constant 1995 dollar exchange rate) -- 1.4 Direct and indirect effects of a one-percent agricultural output increase -- 1.5 The effect of public goods on agricultural sector productivity -- 1.6 Estimated R&D rates of return to the agricultural sector -- 1.7 Urban and rural student language attainment by education level (percent of all students with satisfactory attainment) -- 1.8 Latin American and Caribbean differentials in access to safe water -- 1.9 Composition of rural public expenditures -- 1.10 Latin American and Caribbean countries are net agricultural exporters, but many are net food importers -- 1.11 Average MFN tariffs are as high in agriculture as in manufacturing -- 1.12 MFN tariff peaks (above 15 percent) are as common in agriculture as in manufacturing -- 1.13 Public rural expenditures compared with agriculture/GDP ratios --

Chapter 2 -- 2.1 Evolution of agriculture GDP in the Latin American and Caribbean region, 1990-2002 -- 2.2 Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as a percent of national GDP -- 2.3 Sum of sectoral GDPs of agriculture-related industries according to IICA, 1997 (billions) -- 2.4 Summary of expanded agricultural GDP share estimates -- 2.5 Main forward linkages for Chile, 1996 -- 2.6 Export and import shares and trade balance of rural natural resource sectors (agriculture, forestry, and fisheries) in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1999-2001 averages.
2.7 Average value of RNR and total exports per person, 1999-2001.

Sommario/riassunto

In Latin American and Caribbean history, rural societies have been at the center of both the origins of prosperity and of social upheaval. Rural communities have access to a wealth of natural resources, including arable land and forests, yet they face the highest poverty rates within countries. Characterized by low population densities and located far from the major urban centers, rural communities must overcome severe restrictions in their access to public services and private markets, even in some countries where public expenditures per inhabitant are higher in rural than in urban communities. Beyond the City evaluates the contribution of rural development and policies to growth, poverty alleviation, and environmental degradation in the rest of the economy, as well as in the rural space. This title brings together new theoretical and empirical treatments of the links between rural and national development. New findings and are combined with existing literature to enhance our understanding of the how rural economic activities contribute to various aspects of national development. The study is based on original research funded by the World Bank's Office of the Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean. Of particular relevance is the interaction between agricultural and territorial development issues. The empirical findings also make substantial contributions to the debate over the appropriate design of public policies aiming to enhance the rural contribution to national development, including economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and macroeconomic stability.
