

The Importance of Secondary and Small Cities in the Urban Network of Mumbai Metropolitan Region

SOHEE MINSUN KIM, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOS, SERD/AIT

The concept of 'urban-rural network or linkage' has been developed as a mechanism to better view and understand the inherent differences between the two terms in the field of planning and regional development. Examining actual transforming process in one of the most dynamic and least regulated cities in the world – Mumbai metropolitan region, this study tries to describe the increasing significance of urban-rural linkages in the livelihoods of rural residents, including spatial and occupational transformations and their interdependence on surrounding urban centers and towns.

Methodology

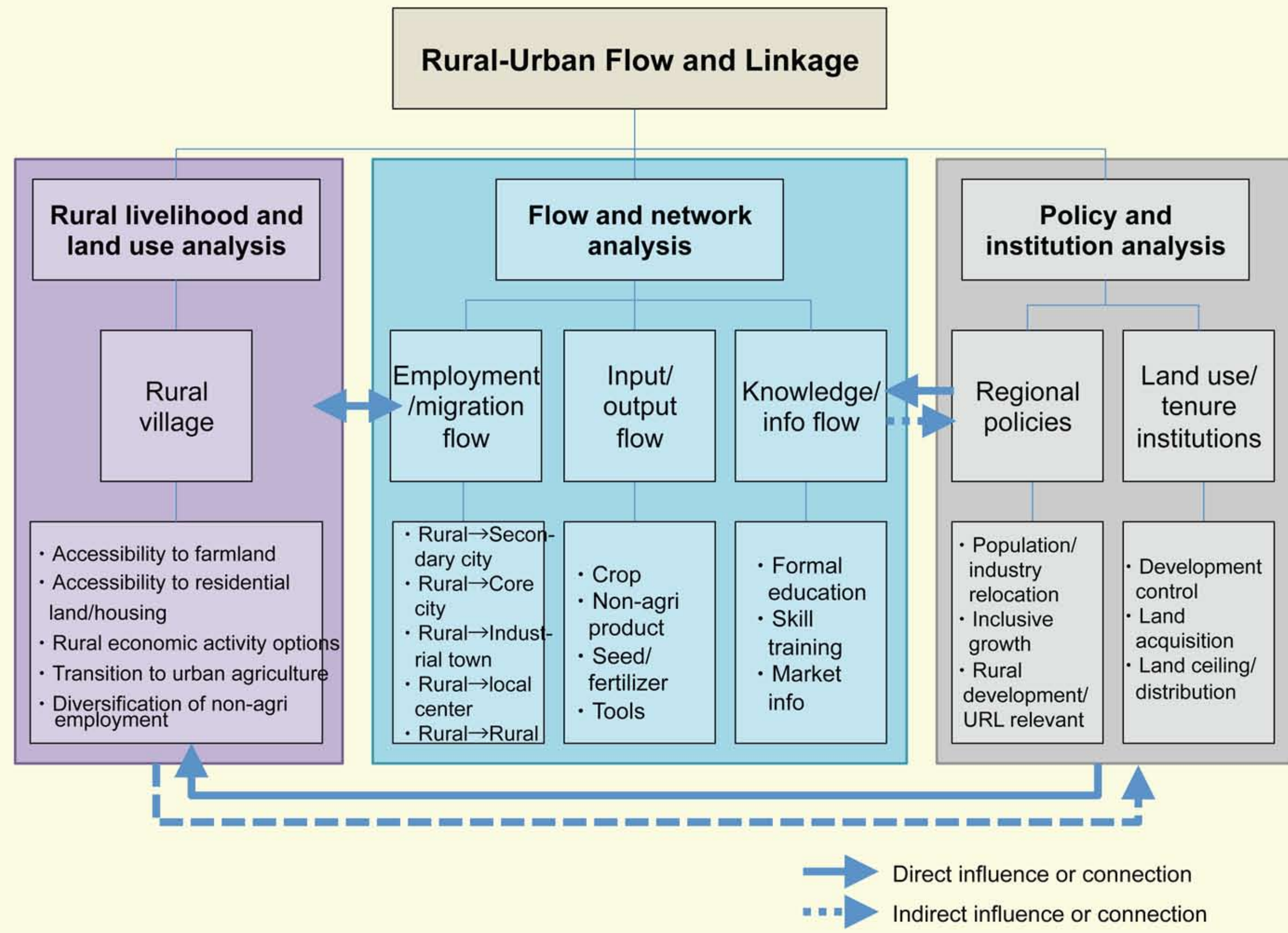


Figure 1. Analytical Framework for Measuring Urban-Rural Linkage (Source: Adapted from Douglass, 1998)

Tracing and quantifying urban-rural linkages through a set of flows:

- **People** (employment and migration)
- **Production and commodities** (agricultural input & output)
- **Knowledge and information** (destination for higher education)

Choice of Study Area: Panvel block, Raigad district

- Area of 518 km², 570,000 population (2011 Census)
- 30km southeast of central Mumbai
- Region's strategic transport and logistics hub
- Extensive land use change from agricultural to urban land use in the last two decades

Data Collection: questionnaire for all heads of households in three case villages on;

- 1) their demographic information,
- 2) access and mobility for their economic livelihood



Photo 1-4. Case study villages and local market center

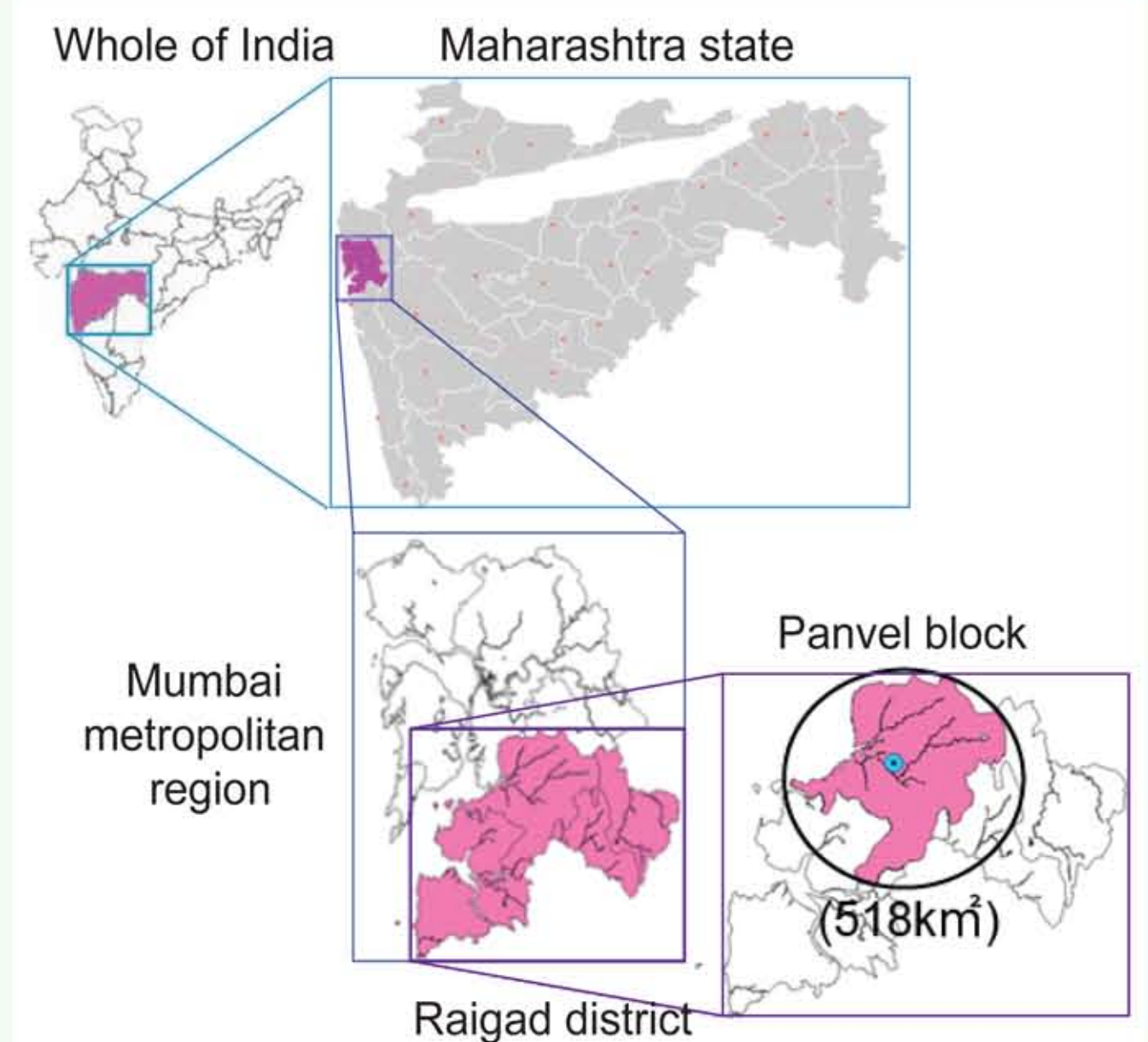
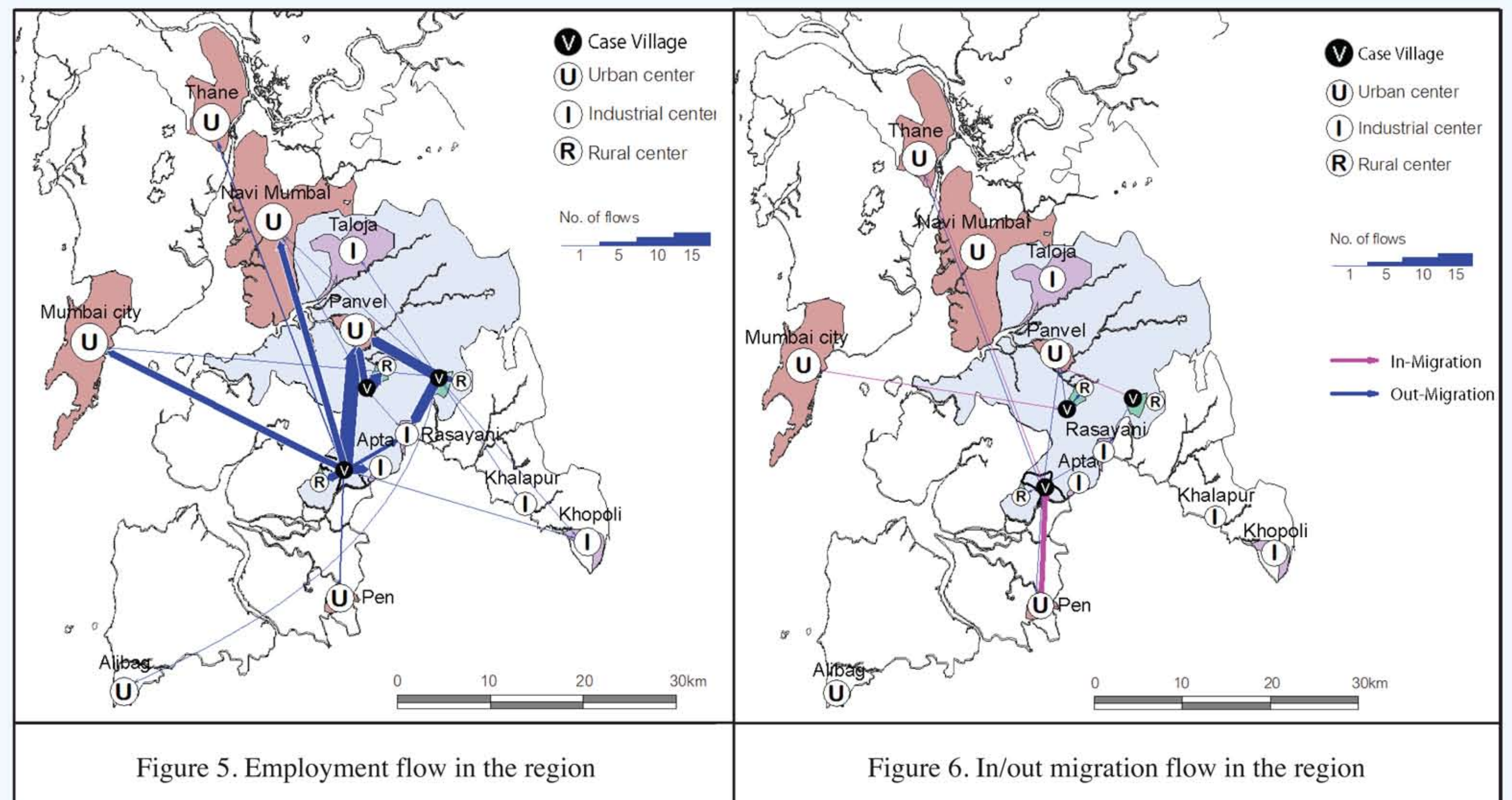
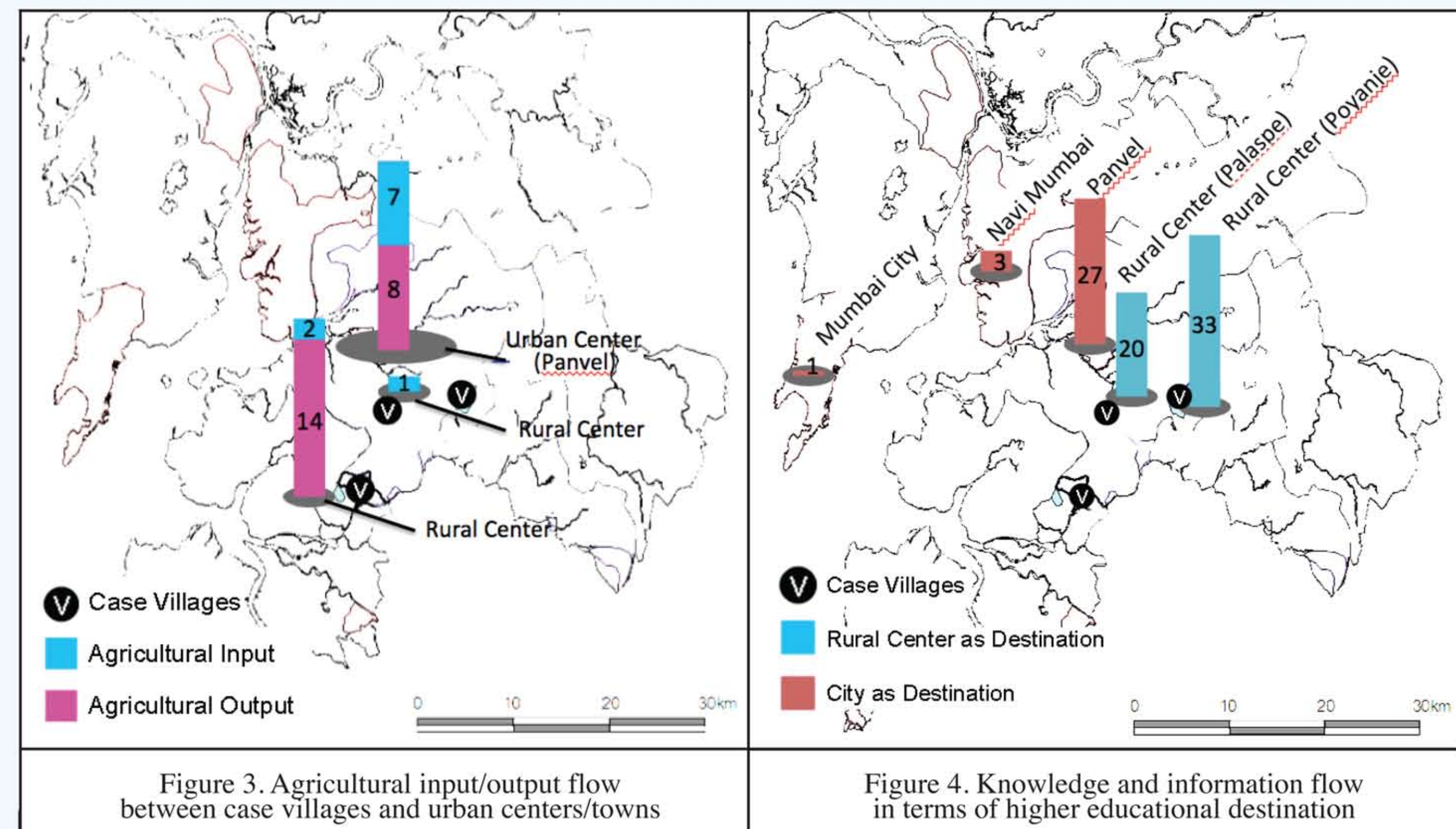


Figure 2. Location of Panvel block, Raigad district

Network Analysis: Key Findings



- Services and trade typically provide a larger share of employment and tend to concentrate in rural centers and small urban centers that facilitate exchange by offering employments and markets both for farming and non-farming sectors.
- Small and micro-enterprises, where low-income groups concentrate, need access to markets, capital sources, information, skills and institutional support to identify local opportunities and respond to competition with other regions.

- Main destinations for employment and out-migrants tends to be relatively vicinal small cities and local centers, which indicate considerable potential role of town centers in rural livelihood.
- Marginalized groups such as scheduled tribes and in-migrants, in many cases, prefer to live in the village and reap the benefit from the opportunities provided by the local town centers.

Conclusion and Recommendation

- (1) Rapid urbanization has led to the **diversification of rural non-agricultural economy in peri-urban villages**, and they are now being incorporated into the bottom of the **regional economic hierarchy**.
- (2) Small urban centers may stimulate the growth of local businesses by offering markets large enough to capture **economies of scale and agglomeration for many types of non-farm enterprises**.
- (3) **Better local transport facilities and increased mobility** are a key element of livelihood strategies based on diversification of activities and reliance on both rural and urban resources.
- (4) For those small urban centers in the proximity of large cities, **competition for natural resources** can benefit large urban-based firms and higher-income urbanites, at the expense of low-income peri-urban and rural residents.
- (5) Urban-rural linkages can be strengthened by the local or regional authorities which **transcend traditional administrative boundaries** and build an interdependent **urban-rural continuum in planning and resource management practices**.

References

[1] Douglass, Mike (1998): "A Regional Network Strategy for Reciprocal Rural-Urban Linkages: An Agenda for Policy Research with Reference to Indonesia," Third World Planning Review, 20:1, pp.1-33, [2] Friedmann, John (1992): "Empowerment: The Politics of Alternative Development", Wiley-Blackwell, Cambridge, Massachusetts, [3] Ginsburg, N, Koppel, B and McGee, T.G. (eds) (1991): "The Extended Metropolis: Settlement Transition in Asia, University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, [4] Gottman, Jean (1961): "Megalopolis: The Urbanized Northeast Seaboard of the United States", The Twentieth Century Fund, New York, [5] Kim, S. M., Kidokoro, T. and Onishi, T. (2012) 'Peri-urbanization and its impacts on rural livelihoods in Mumbai's urban fringe', Report of 48th Congress of the International Society of City and Regional Planners [Available online], Perm, Russia, [6] Leeuwen, Eveline S. van (2006): "The Urban-Rural Nexus – A study on extended urbanization and the hinterland", Studies in Regional Science, Vol. 36, no. 2, pp. 283-303, [7] Shaw, Annapurna (2005): "Peri-Urban Interface of Indian Cities - Growth, Governance and Local Initiatives", Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 129-136, [8] Sui, D.Z. and Zeng, H. (2001): "Modeling the dynamics of landscape structure in Asia's emerging desakota regions - A case study in Shenzhen" Landscape and Urban Planning, vol. 53, pp. 37-52, [9] Tacoli, Cecilia (1998): "Rural-urban interactions: A guide to the literature", Environment and Urbanization, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 147-166, [10] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) (2002): "Rural-Urban Linkages and the Role of Small and Medium-sized Towns in Development: Issues, Concepts and Policies", Workshop on Poverty Alleviation Through Rural-Urban Linkages, Siem Reap, Cambodia, [11] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2007): "State of world population - Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth", [12] Yokohari, M., Takeuchi, K., Watanabe, T. and Yokota, S. (2000) "Beyond greenbelts and zoning: A new planning concept for the environment of Asian mega-cities", Landscape and Urban Planning, Vol. 47, pp. 159-171, [13] Zeleke G. and Trutmann P. (2006): "Fostering New Development Pathways: Harnessing Rural-urban Linkages (RUL) to Reduce Poverty and Improve Environment in the Highlands of Ethiopia", Working Paper Series on Rural-Urban-Linkage Theme of the Global Mountain Programme (GMP)