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Economic Indicators Relating to Rural Development

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Rural development is one of the most complex and topical research areas, requiring interdisciplinary approaches and the proposal of multifunctional, sustainable economic development models grounded in both theoretical and empirical studies. Such studies emphasize socio-economic indicators that can improve policy approaches to analysis, evaluation, and decision-making. Shifts in rural development policies—from a sectoral to a multisectoral perspective and, more recently, to a territorial approach that embraces local community development—highlight the need for socio-economic indicators related to rural development opportunities generated by various domains (e.g., agriculture, tourism). Rural areas are among those experiencing the most profound transformations in recent years, driven by demographic challenges, economic fluctuations and uncertainties, environmental risks, and the impacts of climate change. These factors significantly increase population vulnerability worldwide in rural regions. Population growth and resource scarcity or depletion become even more acute when access to education, financial resources, or transportation infrastructure is limited by unbalanced investments and inadequate planning resulting from deficient administrative systems. Conversely, the rapid development of digital technologies—including smart agriculture, smart household technologies, and digital systems of education and administration—demonstrates clear opportunities for growth and development while improving resource accessibility for rural regions and among more vulnerable demographic groups.



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