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Boosting rural economies through decent work and social justice in Namibia

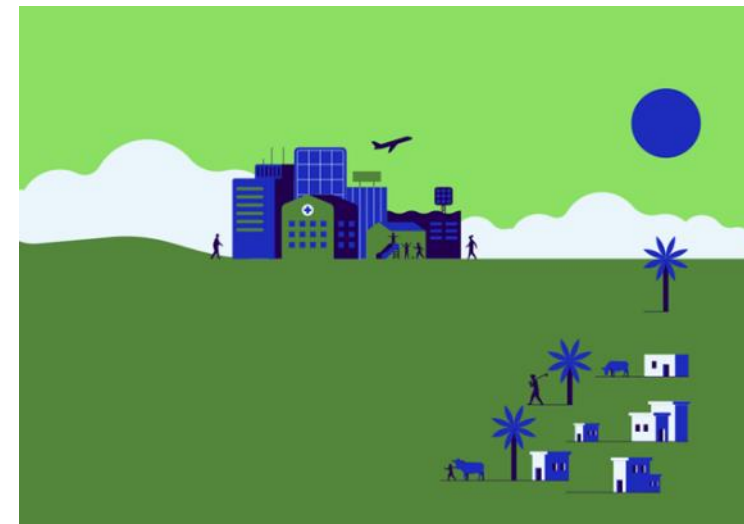
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Structure of the presentation

- I. Key trends in the rural economy – future work, multiple crises
- II. Policies towards inclusive, sustainable and resilient rural economies – some examples
- III. Final considerations



I. Key trends in the rural economy



World of work in the rural economy

▶ **Over 1 bn**
people work in the agri-food sector

▶ **Over 90 %**
of work in agriculture is informal

▶ **1 in 4**
workers globally work in agriculture

▶ **170.000**
agricultural workers are killed annually

▶ **84 %**
of all the poor people live in rural areas

▶ **70 %**
of all child labour is in agriculture

► Global trends shaping the rural landscape

- Growing world population that implies increasing demand for food, which is mainly sourced from rural areas
- Countries with a youth bulge have window of opportunity to accelerate rural development - importance of more and better job opportunities for rural youth
- Women are the backbone of many agri-food systems and rural areas but gender inequality and discrimination still prevailing
- Urbanization, migration, rural-urban linkages – changing dynamics
- Rural economies are increasingly integrated into national and international markets
- Transformational potential of a just transition in rural economies remains untapped
- Impact of digital technology on the future of work in rural areas – opportunities and challenges

Multiple and interlinked crises – sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery

- ▶ Multiple and interlinked crises have exacerbated existing inequalities and decent work deficits
- ▶ Increased vulnerability of the workforce due to informality, insecure forms of employment, occupational safety issues etc.
- ▶ Interrelated nature of public health, labour, food security and climate change...
- ▶ ... and importance of addressing decent work deficits: safety and health, incomes and wages, greater labour and social protection





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II. Policies towards inclusive, sustainable and resilient rural economies



► Policies towards inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies

We can seize the momentum to trigger transformative changes and advance towards more revitalized and dynamic rural economies. Rural areas will also be more resilient and attractive places to live and work

How?

Some key elements to consider:

- Coherent, comprehensive, integrated approaches can be most effective
- Anchored in International Labour Standards and supported by Social Dialogue
- Policy coherence, institutional coordination
- Rural labour statistics

Investments in key strategic sectors for decent jobs creation in rural areas



Investments in strategic sectors are crucial to boost the potential for decent job creation in rural economies - direct, indirect and induced employment creation



Boosting the agri-food sector while harnessing the job creation potential in sectors that support the economic diversification of rural areas



Multistakeholder Roundtables to Promote Tourism (Latin America)



Improving rural infrastructure fostering mobility and connectivity



Investing in rural infrastructure with employment-intensive investment approaches (Africa, Asia)

► Multistakeholder Roundtables to Promote Tourism (Latin America)

- Ecuador and Costa Rica have an expanding tourism sector that employs around 6% of the workforce.
- The sector was significantly affected by the crisis – job losses and business closures.
- ILO technical assistance to establish a Tourism Multistakeholder Roundtable to promote social dialogue for the sector's recovery.
- Roundtable members include the government, employers and workers organization and other sectoral stakeholders.
- A roadmap for action was developed by the roundtable with agreed solutions to concrete bottlenecks faced by the sector.

▶ Investing in rural infrastructure with employment-intensive investment approaches (Africa, Asia)

- ▶ Example – Timor Leste
- ▶ 70% of the population live and work in rural areas.
- ▶ Agro-forestry has significant potential but curtailed due to limited access to roads in rural areas.
- ▶ With support from the EU and in collaboration with GIZ, the ILO provides market linkages to agro-forestry communities.
- ▶ How? Improved rural road access built by local contractors who are trained to use local resource-based approaches.
- ▶ Direct employment creation in infrastructure development, including for rural women, and increased market access for local farmers.
- ▶ Towards implementing green and resilient engineering approaches to protect against erosion and landslide.

Advancing towards a just transition in rural areas



Opportunities for green job creation in sustainable forest management, including through reforestation, afforestation, and forest restoration activities



Potential in the blue economy – decent job creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture



Understanding the potential and promoting social dialogue in fisheries supply chain (Namibia)

► Understanding the potential and promoting social dialogue in fisheries supply chain (Namibia)

- Relevance and potential of fisheries sector in Namibia
- ILO project “Sustainable Supply Chains to Build Forward Better” project, with support from the European Union
- Improved understanding of decent work challenges in the fisheries supply chain – deep dive study to inform sector-specific interventions
- Sector-specific tools to promote decent work in fishing and better implement and enforce the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188).
- Capacity strengthening to improve labour inspection in the sector
- Promote sectoral social dialogue: national coordination mechanism



Promoting employment creation in the agri-food sector and rural economies



Promoting more sustainable and productive agricultural practices



Boosting job creation in agri-related downstream businesses and strengthening market access, especially for small and medium agro-enterprises



Investing in inclusive skills development for the employability of rural workers → *Certifying skills of agricultural workers in the coffee sector (Colombia)*



Targeted actions for rural youth employment and women's economic empowerment

▶ **Certifying skills of agricultural workers in the coffee sector (Colombia)**

- ▶ The coffee supply chain in Colombia is the largest generator of rural jobs: around 2 million people.
- ▶ Most work is informal: daily wage or piece-rate basis, often under verbal contracts or as contributing family workers. Also long working hours, OSH hazards, lack of social protection.
- ▶ Coffee workers also lack of adequate skills development and certification recognition.
- ▶ ILO's technical support to develop the first certification programme of labour skills and competencies for coffee harvesting workers in partnership with the National Training Service.

Transition to formality, decent working conditions and access to social protection



Accelerating the transition to formality in the agri-food sector and in rural economies



Innovative approaches to extending social protection to rural populations



Peasants' Social Insurance (Seguro Social Campesino, Ecuador)



Advancing workers' rights and social dialogue in agriculture



Strengthening social partners' capacity, and labour rights in palm oil plantations (Indonesia, Malaysia)



Safe and healthy work environment

► Access to social insurance for subsistence farmers (Ecuador)

- Achieving universal social protection coverage in Ecuador hinges on extending access to social protection in rural areas.
- Peasants' Social Insurance (Seguro Social Campesino, SSC) - The Government of Ecuador extended social protection to own-account agricultural workers, artisanal fishing workers and their families.
- SSC provides coverage to nearly 1.1 million people.
- Financing structure based on the principle of solidarity – it is enabling workers with low contributory capability to access a social insurance scheme for them and their dependents.
- Service provision is enabled through a service structure with remarkable presence in rural areas.
- Innovations in design, implementation and financing of schemes.

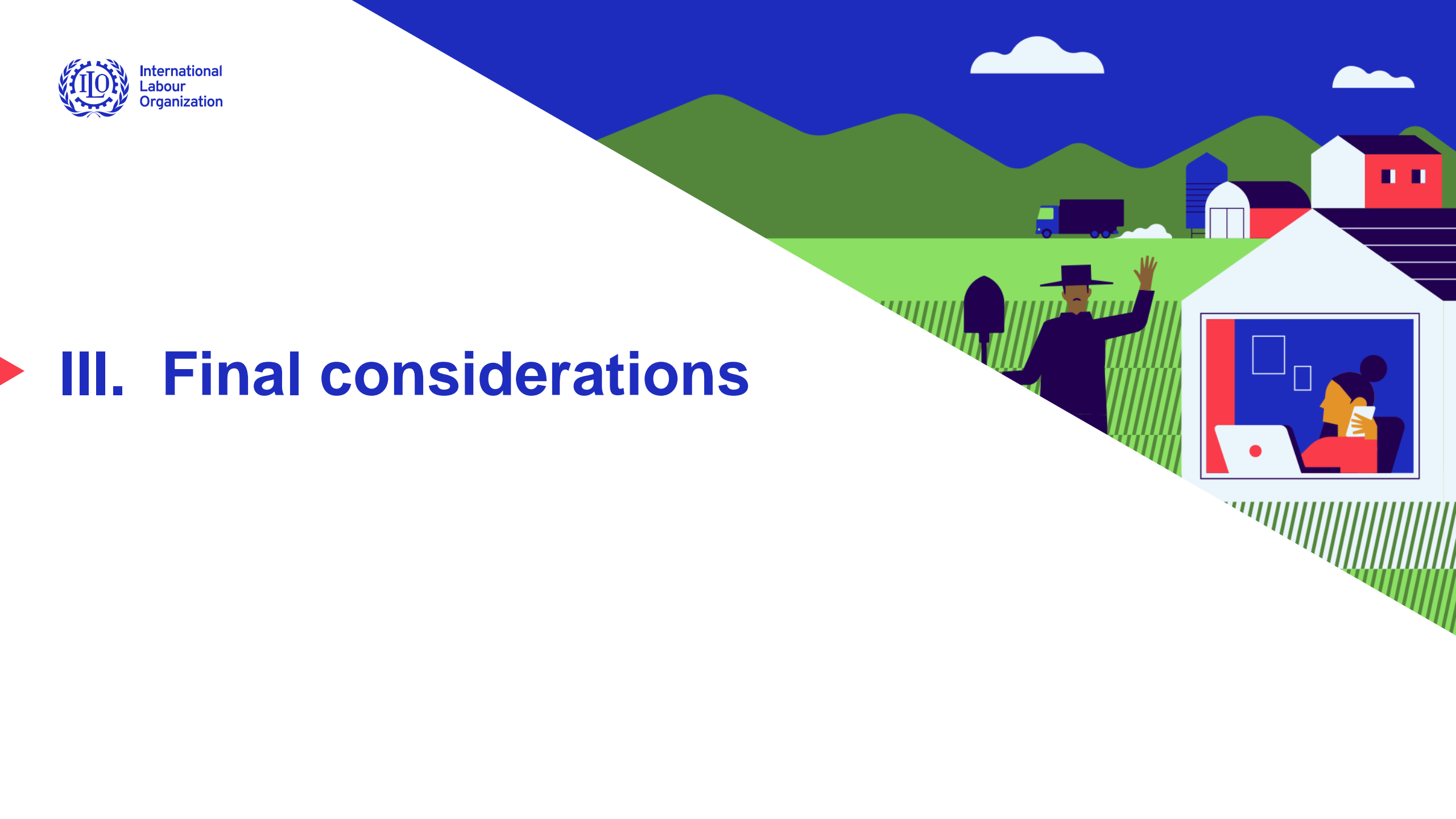
► **Strengthening social partners' capacity, and labour rights compliance in palm oil plantations (Indonesia, Malaysia)**

- ILO project on Advancing Workers' Rights in Indonesia's and Malaysia's Palm Oil Sector
- Relevance of strengthening the capacity of social partners for the promotion of decent work in the sector.
- Indonesian unions in the palm oil supply chain effectively advocate for their members' access to fundamental workers' rights, in particular freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- Social partners in the sector undersigned a joint declaration to address decent work deficits in the sector.
- Technical support to improve compliance through strengthened capacity of enterprises to implement core labour standards and national labour laws.



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III. Final considerations



Key messages

- ▶ Rural economies play a major role in ensuring food security and creating decent jobs
- ▶ However, decent work deficits persist, with many rural workers living in poverty and working informally
- ▶ The impact of multiple and interlinked crises is exacerbating prevailing challenges and inequalities
- ▶ Longer-term trends affect the prospects of life and work in rural areas
- ▶ Tapping into the potential of rural economies to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, ensuring no one is left behind
- ▶ Country experiences underscore the importance of boosting rural economies through a decent work, and advancing social justice for all





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 **Thanks!**

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