

Sustainable Work for Sustainable Development: Panorama and Perspectives in Cape Verde

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Abstract

The relationship between the two crucial challenges of the XXI century, work and long-term sustainability becomes ever closer. In theoretical approach towards growth of human potentialities of citizens, the constructors of his own citizenship, by democratic participation, we pay attention to the importance of understanding and investigating the reciprocal bindings between environmental, social and economic dimensions of endogenous rural development. We pretend to analyze how by means of strategies in the current leads Wharton's enterprising economic, social and environmental system the small rural producer of Santiago ' island find alternatives to improve their economic and social condition and generate significant ways is his own existence in long term. By means of qualitative techniques and methodology, we intend to capture the step of human interaction inside the limits of our participative-observation methodology and finally achieve to get insight about the local productive space. Having in view the economical suppositions analyzed in work contexts of local/global symbolic spaces we try to construct the perspective of the function and the ways to exercise an active citizenship and social empowerment towards sustainable rural development.

Keywords: small producer, work relations, citizenship, development

Introduction

One of the long-term objectives of NEPAD¹ is the creation of efforts for sustainable development in all African countries. Carlos Tiabo (2010) points out the definition of sustainable development, using Latouche's quote for whom it is "a moving target that represents a continuous effort in balancing and integrating the foundations of social well-being, economic prosperity and environmental protection for the benefit of present and future generations". Sustainable development as a concept is based on the relationship of man with nature, "responding to the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations..."². It is why the greatest concern of its scholars (Brito, 1981; Nijkamp et. al., 1990; Guimarães, 1994; Amazonas, 2002) are the future generations and the need of policies that advocate a harmonious development and, as a matter of priority, sustainable in later periods.

The decisive role of decent work for sustainable development was consecrated in a document published at the end of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio + 20). The document emphasizes the importance of "understanding and exploring the reciprocal links that exist between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of an endogenous and sustainable development" (ILO)³. Aiming for the creation of new opportunities for the promotion of decent work for all, the Report focuses on the relationships between the social dimension and the environmental dimension of sustainable development, in particular, in its economic repercussions:

¹ - New Partnerships for Africa's Development.

² - Brundtland Report, 1987.

³ - CNUDS Report: *The future we want* (New York, 2012:56).

[...] the reorientation to a more ecologically sustainable economy is not only indispensable, also from a labor market perspective, as, in fact, can result in net gains in employment, sensible improvements in work quality and income and significant progress on double equity plan and social inclusion⁴.

Cape Verde participated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that was held in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. Under the UNCSA was developed a document where, it should be noted, is given "the main emphasis on the country's Environmental sector through the creation of appropriate institutional frameworks and the reinforcement of technical and human capacities, economic growth promotion and poverty reduction..."⁵. According to this document, institutional frameworks develop, currently, from the structures "that bring together the ministries of guardianship of the environment, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructures, foreign relations, energy and industry". Is also noted that:

[...] Cape Verde furnished over the years a set of strategic instruments that guided the entire process of development of the country. Due to these important guiding documents, the country managed to conduct a development process that has safeguarded the principal national interests so as to not compromise the fundamental balances⁶.

1. Public Investment and the Macroeconomic Situation of Cape Verde

According to the Resolution concerning employment and social protection in the new demographic context, public policies in some countries managed to conciliate economic growth with employment and the wealth distribution creating a virtuous cycle based on comprehensive social protection systems. However, as it is also stated in the same Resolution, over the next decade there will be an increase of 420 million active workers (ILO). The growth of manpower in developing countries is predicted to be more intense than in developed countries, where the active population will enter in decline. Even so, "it will be necessary to create more than 600 million jobs to integrate the current 197 million unemployed (73 million of which are young people) and those incorporating for the first time in the labor market" (PANA II).

Public policies from ministries and institutional frameworks are creating the strategic instruments that define the image of the future of Cape Verde on the horizon in the long term:

[...] a country open to the world, with a strong and dynamic production system, based on the valorization of its human capital, technological training and its culture. A society solidary, peaceful, socially just, democratic, open and tolerant. A country gifted with a durable human development, with a balanced regional development, environmental and aesthetic sense, based on a gained ecological awareness⁷.

A recent experience in Cape Verde, although revealing an important advance towards international integration, is still very limited to public investment, which, in turn, is highly dependent of external funding (fig. 1). The official documents announce that Cape Verde enters a new phase in which private investments, both foreign and domestic are increasingly the development booster. However, from the analysis of the PIP Program it is noted a trend towards the reduction of donations against an increase of loans, "a situation that can lead to the growth of external debt"⁸. According to the data revealed by the Bank of Cape Verde⁹, the aggravation of the internal conditions of the private sector funding and the weakening of external investment reflects, to a large extent, the strong slowdown in bank financing to Public Investment in Programs of Environment, Gender, Employment and Vocational Training.

The fact that observed with regard to the Gender Program, investments in this program were about 0.01% of public investment and in 90% depend on the financing through external donations, this is relevant and gives us the chance to study the hypothesis where actions of "promotion of equal rights between men and women, the effective and visible participation of women in all areas of social, economic and political life, as well as in the development of the country", will be implemented if there is external funding by donation. Hence we understand the weak ability of employment creation, which presents a major challenge in the Cape Verdean economy.

⁴ - *Idem*.

⁵ - Rio + 20 Conference Report: "Cabo Verde no contexto do desenvolvimento sustentável, Junho de 2012".

⁶ - *Idem*.

⁷ - White Book on State of Environment 2004, citation by RC + 20, CVDS

⁸ - PPIP/X Map, State Budget 2009 - 2013

⁹ - Bank of Cape Verde/ November 2013

An analysis of public investment allows to observe how governmental public policies co-operate with the challenges of ILO in order of increasing opportunities to promote employability and productivity and to increase the participation of vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in the national labor market. Carlos Tiabo, in his analysis of the project proposals of anti-capitalist decrement in one of the fundamentals points out that the policies:

[...] should encourage the measures as they may deem, in central place, the improvement in the living standards of poor countries, but always on the basis of the defense of formulas that do not reproduce the developmentalist and productivist models on crisis in the North. In northern countries these policies should advocate, for example, a basic income of citizenship which, by being universal, unconditional and individual, gives possibilities to the most disadvantaged (2010: 78).

According to recent FAO statistics, poverty still exists in Cape Verde, constituting at national level the 8.1% and at level of the rural population is 14.3%. Food expenses constitute 47% of the total expenditure in the poorest families. For people living in rural areas, particularly those that are poorer, having availability of exploitation of the resources of agriculture, forestry and fisheries allows the output of crises and the improvement of living conditions through the informal work and the commercialization of products in the markets:

[...]The cost of these forms of environmental degradation, considered as a whole, for developing countries, is extremely high and cancels out much of the economic growth. Drought and deforestation increase the load that the unpaid work is for girls and for women, leaving them less time available for training or to paid employment. But we must also consider the lack of possibilities: one of the main obstacles to social inclusion and to productive work, particularly for women, is the lack of access to clean energy sources and financially accessible, affecting 1.3 billion human beings, most of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa or southern Asia (ILO).

2. Polarization of Labor and Inequalities in Development

Despite governmental strategies show to be very promising, the panorama of reality in the development of the country, particularly when it comes to the development of cities and rural fields, is different. The document itself presents the data of economic structure in Cape Verde that clearly point to the predominance of the tertiary sector, where services, including tourism, represent 77% of GDP, which absorbs more than 66% of employment in the country, being the basis of undeveloped industry and essentially linked to the sectors of textiles, footwear and fishing "¹⁰

[...] The preponderance of the tertiary sector was due mostly to the low expression of the primary sector, due to structural limitations of agriculture and other natural resource scarcity. Being certain that the increasing pressures suffered by farmers and the deepening of the gap between the financial resources of rural populations and the urban populations may aggravate the dual problem of lack of employment and the consequent poverty, investments devoted to rural infrastructure (with regard, for example, the management of water resources) and social protection could induce the creation of new jobs and the re-establishment of soils as well as water catchment areas and therefore a greater resistance to climate change, resulting in the improvement of corollary agricultural productivity and incomes (ILO).

The characteristically conditions of structural vulnerability (dependence on foreign aid, the geographical insularity, climate, food insecurity, poor management of scarce resources, etc.) produce immediate effect on the low level of agricultural production and in obtaining income, justifying the rural exodus. This "is presented as a calamity, when it results simply from gains of productivity in agriculture. Educated families secure in the urban environment where they find better opportunities of professional valuation [...]" (Furtado, 1996; Ferreira and Pina, 2004; Verdière *et. al.*, 2009).

Water scarcity is a predominant factor in the decline of growth of many economic activities, which, in turn, produces a strong impact in the reduction of employment, mainly in the agricultural sector of the country (ILO):

[...] At this point, irrigation for food production in the agricultural sector now absorbs about 70% of available water resources. And if it is true that in this sector the yield improved with the use of chemical fertilizers, the intensification of farming methods cause an impoverishment of the soil and contaminates water resources. The shortage of food and water also tends to increase the workload for women¹¹.

¹⁰ - ISKO – Cape Verde: OCDE, Es Research – Research Sectorial.

¹¹ - ILO: PNUD: *Gender, climate change and community-based adaptation* (New York, 2010)

In a study integrated in the preparation and adoption of measures aimed at the progressive reduction of the levels of poverty, elaborated by José Manuel Ferreira and Antero Pina (2004), is highlighted the unfavorable situation in which the country finds itself. But the programs designed for development, such as Good Governance and National Development Aspirations, among others, integrate the country in a framework of "strict values of national independence and allow it to conduct a pluralistic democracy, the valorization of women and of culture as a universal element of dialogue, guiding it towards the progress, towards the Millennium Development Goals". However, according to the study referred above:

[...] Weighs a distant and deep heritage of suffering, because of the weather, insufficient resources, personal and institutional disability, demographic pressure and extreme vulnerability of the country. Significant disparities between men and women, between urban and rural areas, between poverty of income and capabilities compose extensive and deep pockets of poverty that cover 36% of the population of which 20% are very poor. The poor have difficult access to clean water in terms of quantity (17 l/person/day) and quality. About 60% of the poor still depend on fountain for their supplies and, in rural areas, only 7% of households have piped water which compared with the situation in the urban environment is 4.7 times lower (Ferreira and Pina, 2004).

These authors argue that the economic growth of this country must be accompanied by the reduction of poverty, especially in rural areas, stressing the importance of "creating jobs targeted to poor populations in rural areas, such as tourism, light industrial use (clothing and footwear), financial sector, insurance, transport and communications services..." (*id. ib.*).

The transition of the economy of Cape Verde to the form of free market operation contributed to growth, social empowerment and the popular participation of the urban community in building their own citizenship. However, in rural areas, according to Estrela (2003), from the projects of personal fulfillment and improvement of conditions of life, those that are related with subsistence agriculture occupy a very low percentage among other alternatives. For example, 0.8% of the rural population has expressed the idea of creating animals as a project to improve living conditions, while 10% of peasants expect aid from the State and 11% would like to create their own small business, but not decided yet what they want to do. Moreover, as stated by the author, 49.5% of the rural population has no idea of the project as his own personal achievement or improvement of the economic situation in the long term (fig. 2).

In Cape Verde, especially in rural areas, the situation of lack of possibilities, according to Ferreira and Pina (2004), can be "explained by the intrinsic poverty and [by] the poverty of income that even prevent the poor of having access to primary goods". On one hand, the study shows that "there are no specialized credit lines to finance micro-production to which the poor is dedicated" and, on the other, the poor producer finds difficulties in mobilizing the allocation of factors of production, as a result of lack of offer of these factors in the local market:

[...] The difficulties inherent with dispersion and the smallness of farms, for years, have culminated in recurring claims of farmers and operators in the sector who ask for solutions on the part of the Government, urging it to the creation of conditions for logistics and distribution to allow the timely flow of their products from producers markets to consumer markets. These difficulties relate to the difficulty of access to agricultural production areas, the irregularity of maritime transport, the impaired packaging conditions of agricultural products and to the poor condition of transport, distribution networks and cooling. There is a great difficulty of communication between the actors involved in the livestock production chain, which hinders the coordination of actions and the teamwork required for the formulation of measures to facilitate and promote the movement of products between producer markets and consumer markets. This situation worsens with the policy of liberalization of trade and the weak economic situation of agricultural producers, who are not prepared to face the competition from larger, more competitive and subsidized producers markets¹².

3. Rural Work as a Strategy of Sustainable Development

The modern meaning of work, whether industrial or agricultural, which results from a process of centralization, therefore, subject to ethical and technical standardization, is a modern remunerated work. According to Ribas (2003), the modern industrial mentality comes as result of cultural leaps, since the old considerations that saw employment as a peripheral and secondary activity to the construction of wage labor as core value and primary in social and human activities.

¹²- EDIC – Chapter 5 – Agriculture and Agribusiness, actualized for Cape Verde, 2012.

Ribas emphasizes work in sociocultural context, presenting it as an engine for the economic growth of societies together with the improvement of living conditions and well-being of its citizens. (Fig. 3) The creation of infrastructures in rural areas is an important issue in which fits the moralizing and modernization of local labor, as well as the intrinsic motivation of modern local professionals and their characteristics of self-accomplishment and self-esteem.

The aspect of infrastructure in rural areas has various dimensions, so these are considered fundamental within the economic activities of the place where they are inserted (Igue, 2011). Cooperation between units in the field of infrastructure allows strengthening the physical characteristics of each particular unit and improving the management of relations with the outside world, i.e. between the local units and regional units towards the promotion and facilitation of marketing of products (Rommel, 2011) and the increase in production and job offers.

Corsino Tolentino (2011), debating the issues of regional integration in West Africa, defends the priority of employment, equal opportunities and access to technologies as driving forces and increasingly more effective in the formation of new communities and the identification of internal and external actors, able to mobilize younger populations and transmit ideas with dynamism and with clear purposes.

4. NEPAD and the Alternatives for Cape Verde

One of the objectives of NEPAD in the long term is the creation of efforts for sustainable rural development of all African countries. According to Sam Moyo (2006), this objective is general and includes various problems to be solved, among which, firstly, the eradication of poverty and the setting of every African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development. Thus, accordingly to the author, it is possible to put an end to the marginalization of Africa in the Globalization process and promote the democratic participation of women as citizens in all economic activities (Moyo, 2006). Corroborating the challenges of NEPAD, Moyo underlines the sectors of economic activities that should be treated with priority, as, for example: infrastructure; information technology systems, communications and energy; health services; agriculture; the environment and access to initiatives and to work. In his analysis of the causes of poverty among the African rural population, Moyo classifies, as more frequent sorts, the marginalization of the small farmer, the internal constraints of small-scale agricultural production, as well as the inadequacy of trade in agricultural products (tab. 1). According to this analysis, there is a direct link between the land and the poverty of the rural population: poverty increases as decreases the possibility of privately owned land (Moyo, 2011).

Some Final Considerations

The philosopher and economist Adam Smith, in his approach to the economic development, defends the perspective of human potential. According to the author, the development of human capability to "live a life worth living" should take a leading role in the promotion of wealth in society – he says that "the wealth of a nation is measured by the richness of the people and not by the richness of the Princes. No nation can flourish and be happy as long as most of its members are formed by poor and miserable "(Smith, 1950).

Understanding that the promotion of active citizenship is based on democratization of constitutional policies and a joint work of the whole society to overcome the economic and social problems, Ricardo (1963) argues that this form of social organization is best suited to the regime of free competition, involving the decentralization of power, besides the participation of the population in the formulation of public policies and decision-making moments. The (neo) classical perspective of international trade addressed by Smith and Ricardo, served as a starting point to other more recent economic-social theories in developed societies, with diversified production modes. As for Cape Verdean rural society, we can use it as explanatory contributions in two senses: firstly, for the part of productive processes, assumptions based "on abundance/scarcity of production factors" i.e. "countries will have interest in specialize in the production of goods and services using more extensively the factors of production available to them in greater quantity" (Amazon, 1994a; 2002b; Matias, 2010).

According to this explanation, for an average developing country, such as Cape Verde, in which the productive factor Work is considered to be the most prevalent, must bet, preferably in the production and marketing of agricultural products.

Secondly, we use the neoclassical approach to understand the processes related with the (inter) national trade of locally produced products. Matias (2010) bases on Porter's (1990) theory of competitive advantages, according to which companies must take into account a number of factors that constitute the competitive advantage of a productive unit, among which are "the terms of the factors, related industries and support industries, search conditions, strategy, structure and business rivalry" (Mathias, 2010: 161).

To the author, although Porter says that "nowadays the conditions as abundant, cheap and unskilled manpower, or even the abundance of some raw materials" are no longer constitute "as a competitive advantage in many economic activities", in the case of Cape Verde, the artisan/industry of agricultural products presupposes, and on a large scale, the use of these factors as key in the global process of production (manufacturing industry) from the primary sector to the consumer's table of the final product.

It is in this sense that is valued, and increasingly, livestock production-in particular, the women's labor—that promises an increase of jobs in the sector in general and, specifically, the growth of these jobs will tend to benefit women, in view of the nature of the activities that this sector develops, including packing, cleaning products, processing, transformation, and commercialization"¹³.

The creation of job opportunities through the expansion of the rural economy and the integration of rural areas is a Government's challenge¹⁴, which is based on empowerment of the poor to increase their productive capacity and their participation in actions of improvement of living conditions and the construction of their own citizenship.

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¹⁴- *Idem. Ib.*

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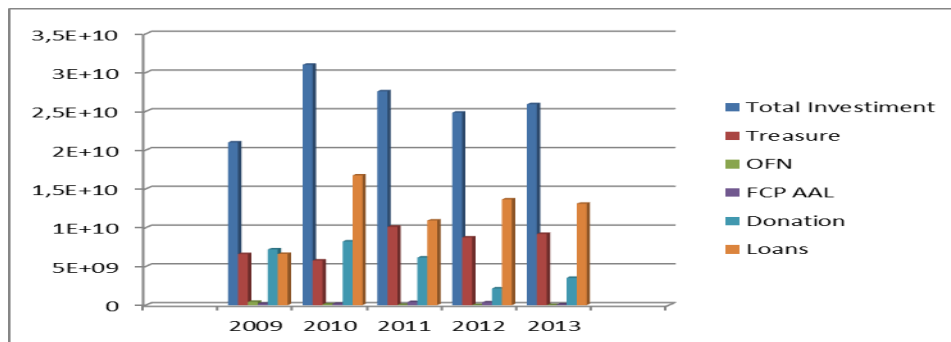
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Appendix I

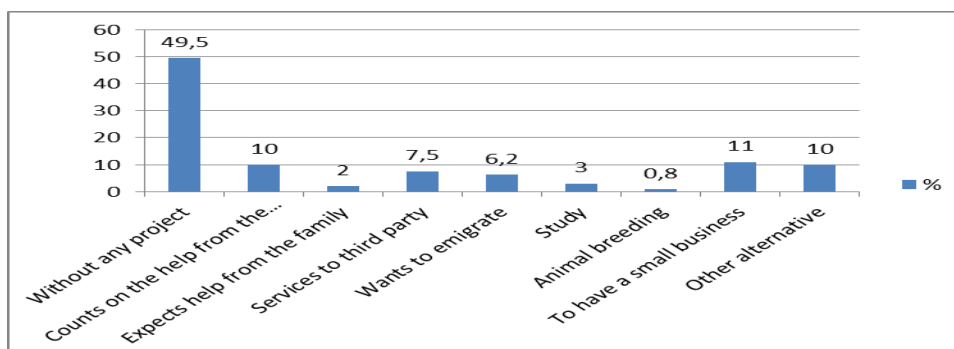
Figure1. Multiannual Program of Public Investment: 2009 – 2013



Source: PPIP/ State Budget, X Map, 2009 - 2013

Appendix II

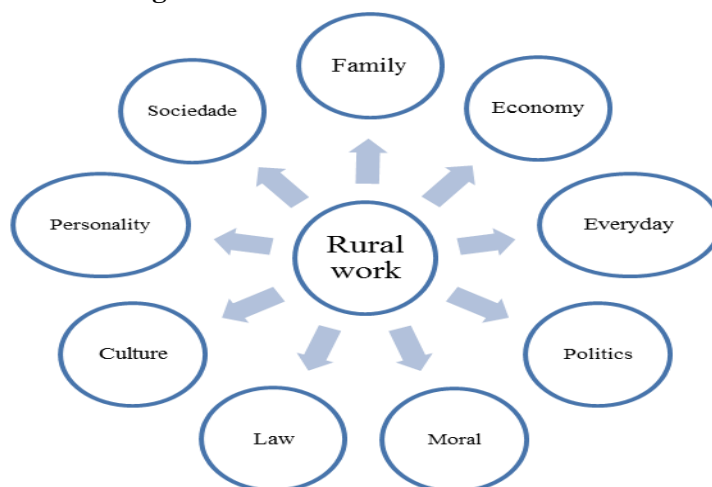
Figure2. Projects for Improvement of Living Conditions



Source: Estrela 2003

Appendix III

Figure 3: Modern rural work Clusters



Source: Ribas, 2003

Appendix IV

Table1. Relationship between the Rural Work and Poverty

Causes of poverty	Description
1. Marginalization of small farmer	<p>Many inequalities in distribution and access to land and in resources needed for production:</p> <p>the poor farmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not have access to land • does not have production resources • remains in constant vicious circle: • does not have the resources • has no possibility to produce • can't establish exchanges • cannot buy or sell
2. Marginalization of exchange systems in the colonial era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural policies during the colonial era did not favored economic growth of small farmers through trade; • Small farmers were not allowed to sell the surplus of agricultural production by means of legal trade, but forced to sell to merchants on a large scale by informal means and for very low prices.
3. Developing management after independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prospects for training and implementation of structural policies in agriculture by new Governments, although seeming democratic, in most cases, cannot solve the problems of the small producers in the short term; • The low educational level of the majority of the rural population prevents the improvement of living conditions, due to impossibility of get funding.
4. Incomplete structural adaptation of public policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structural programs adapted have had limited success in the African context, in many cases, inability to obtain State support (subsidies, production financing, compatible prices, etc.).
5. Internal constraints for small farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problem manifests itself mainly by the shortage of manpower for agricultural production; • Job-intensive production system is still the predominant system among small private properties of rationality in CV.

Source: (Ferreira and Pina, 2004; Moyo, 2006)