

**URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES WEBINAR
IN PREPARATION
OF THE 9th
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SUMMIT**

**“The Role of Intermediary Cities in
Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages
Amid Rapid Urbanization in Africa.”**

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Geography of Niger State

- Largest in terms of land area, accounting for **10% of Nigeria's Land area (76,363 km²)**
- Geographically, ecologically and *meteorological located in the center.*
- Fertile and varied soil good for agriculture
- Large and extensive water bodies and rivers with rich alluvial soil.



The crux of the problem,

Until recently, often urban and rural development are usually considered in isolation while the intrinsic linkage between the urban and rural development is less considered or reduced to only market linkages. Although market linkages play substantial role in this scenario, nevertheless Urban- Rural Linkage (URL) is beyond a linear interaction as it encompasses many complex interactions and processes.

Some efforts by UN-Habitat:

- Territorial planning instead of URP, TP, T&CP etc
- URL

Niger state URL situational analysis.

despite the symbiotic relationship between the urban and rural areas,

- there is a disparity in the quality of life between urban and rural households in the State. Due to lack of proper and strong linkages between urban and rural systems which emanated from uncoordinated development strategies of the two systems, while the resultant effect of this is not only evident in the prevalence of rural poverty and high rate of mortality but also in food insecurity, declining returns on agriculture for rural farmers, rural-urban migration, inadequate infrastructure and basic services among others.

Some statistics

According to Niger State Bureau of Statistics Report (2014),

- about 77.7% of rural dwellers are estimated to be poor;
- over 40 % of the sampled buildings in rural areas have no access to electricity;
- 27.9 % have no sanitation facilities;
- 61.4% disposed waste in an open dump
- while literacy rate in rural areas of Niger state is 38.5% per cent.

The complex link between the Rural and Urban

The influx of people from different parts of rural areas to urban centers has created huge pressure on the already fragile urban infrastructure and social services and also exacerbated the urban unemployment problem, the number of people living in urban slums, and contributes to the ever-increasing environmental pollution and degradation in many parts of the state.

It is against this background that the URL programme in Niger state was initiated to change the narratives on the relationship between urban and rural areas as this would contribute to more equitable development and as well play an increasingly significant role in local economies and in the livelihoods of rural residents.

- **Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages is directly linked to SDGs**
 - particularly Goal 11 *“make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”*,
 - Goal 2 *“end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”*
 - Goal 9, *“build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”* and
 - Goal 10 which seeks to *“reduce inequality within and among countries”*. Similarly, the commitment to bridge the gap between urban and rural systems is expressed in numerous paragraphs of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), (15c, 28, 49, 50, 71, 72, 95, and 96).

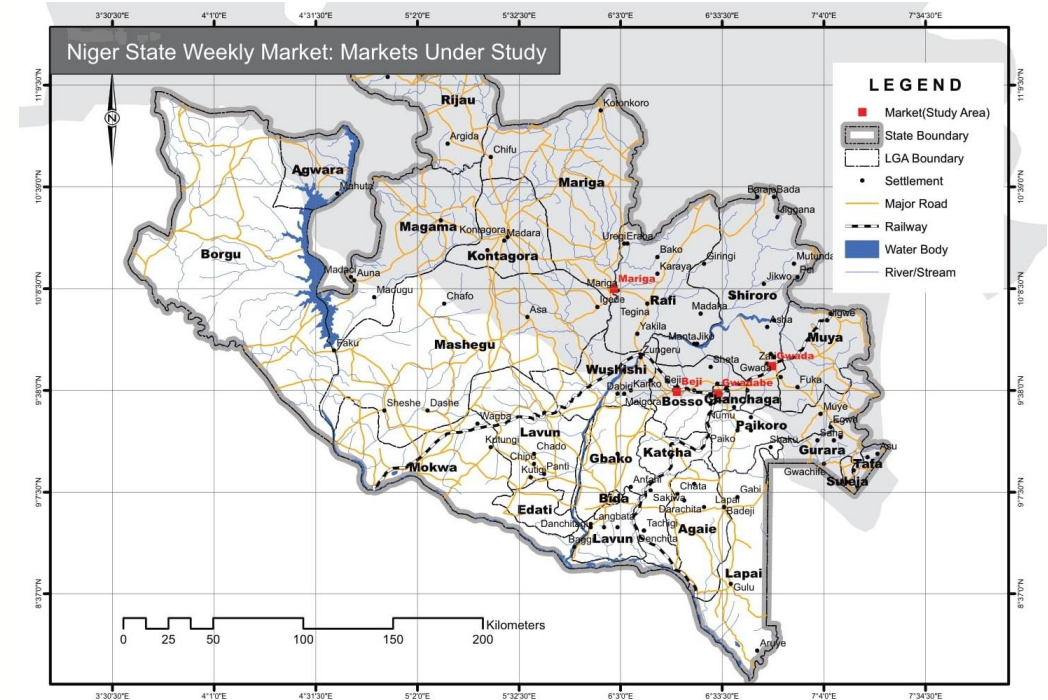
INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SMALL TOWNS AND BIG CITIES IN NIGER STATE

- Rural and urban areas are interconnected economically, financially, and socially while the linkages play a crucial role in the generation of income, employment and wealth.
- As part of the effort to establish the interactions/linkages between small towns and big cities in Niger State, a market survey was carried out at some selected markets (Figure 1)
 - (Gwadabe market in Minna,
 - Beji market - 40km from Minna;
 - Gwada market - about 43.6km from Minna and
 - Mariga regional market - about 117km from Minna)

The market analysis was primarily aimed at

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- the major commodities traded,
- sphere of influence of the market, based on the distance of the communities to the markets; and
- major items purchased by the rural people when returning home after the market.

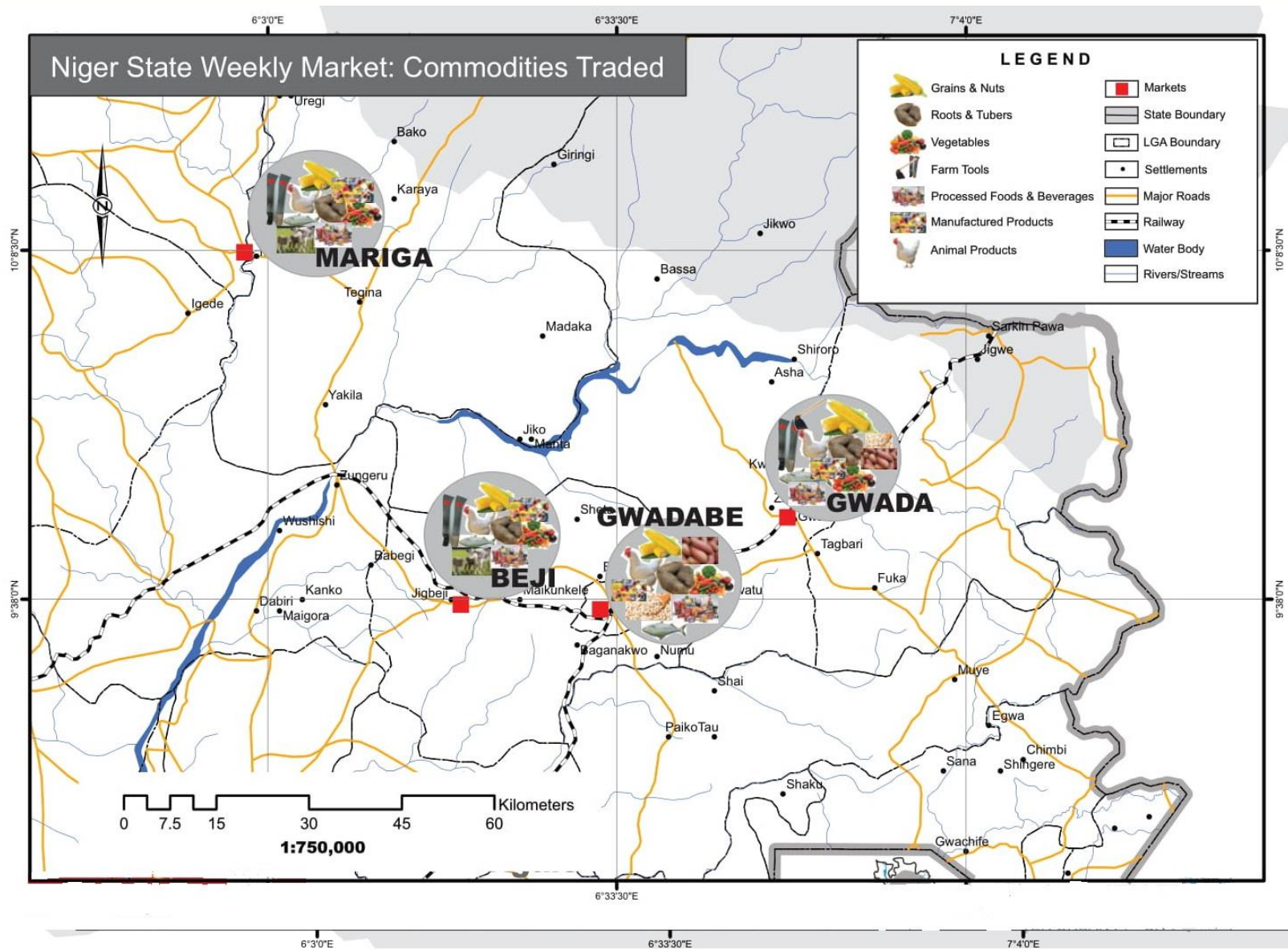


The linkages between small and big towns with rural areas.

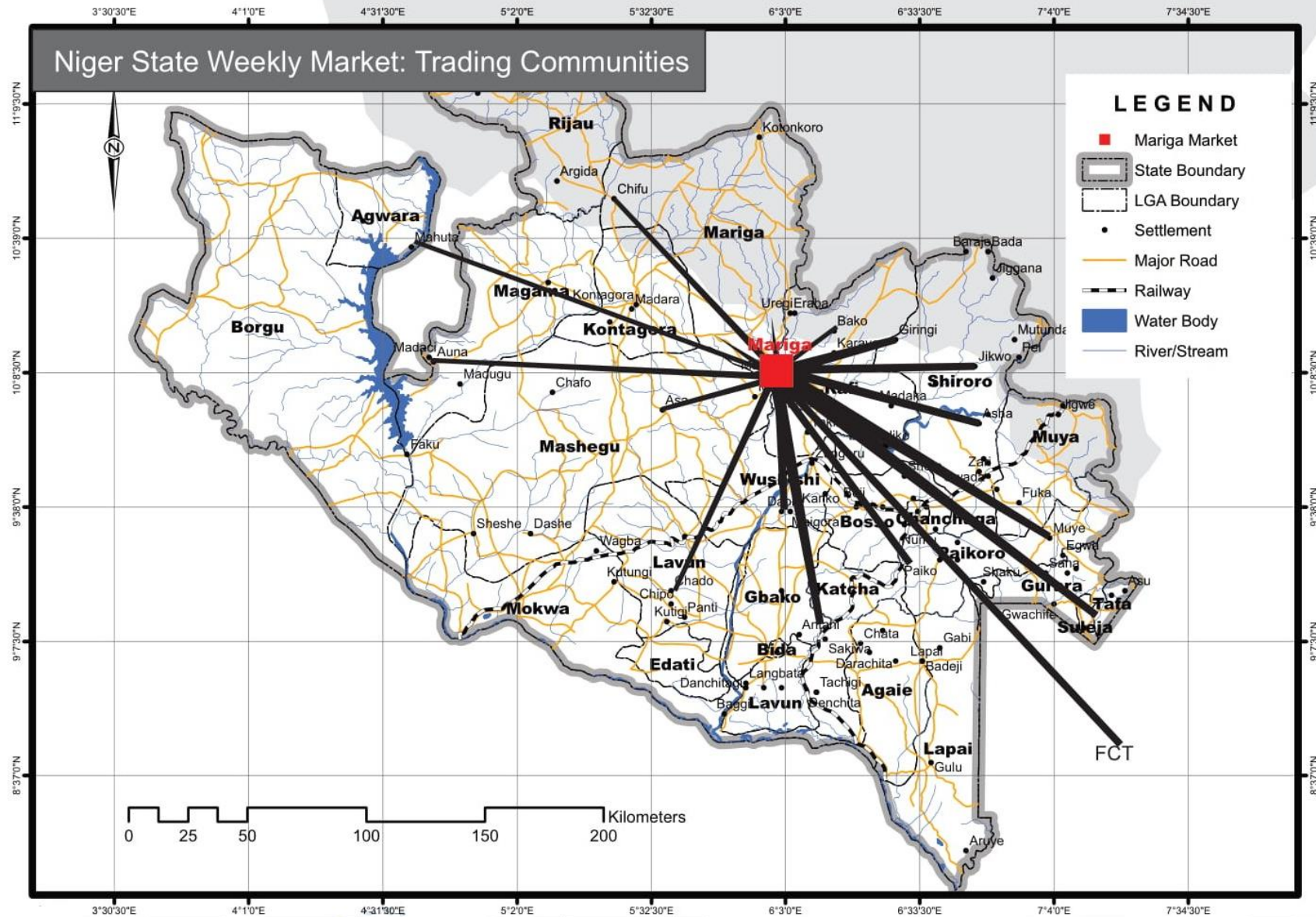
Flow of goods / Farm produce plays a significant role in urban –rural linkages in Niger State. Survey reveals that rural communities, small towns and big cities in the state are connected with flow of variety of food/items such as yam, cassava, sweet potato, rice, maize, sorghum, millet, beans, bambara nuts, groundnut, tiger nuts, cattle, fish, chicken, vegetables, farm tools, processed foods, mat, rope, torchlight, radio, knife, footwear, cloth and amongst others. Yam is the most popular crop exclusively produced by most of the farmers in Niger State. Apart from its domestic importance as food it is transported to different states of the country and generates much-needed income for the local farmers



The linkages between small and big towns with rural areas.



The linkages between small and big towns with rural areas.: Mariga market



ONGOING INTERVENTIONS RELEVANT TO URBAN RURAL LINKAGES

Nigeria Energy Support Programme (supported by EU-GIZ)

This programme aimed to provide electricity to remote areas that are very unlikely to be connected to the national grid within a span of 5-10 years through the use of renewable energy solar energy. Communities energized thus far include; Tungan Jika (Magama Local Government Area), Rokota (Edati Local Government Area), Gulu General Hospital (Lapai Local Government Area), Goto Sarki (Paikoro Local Government Area) and Bisanti community (Katcha Local Government Area). All the communities are far from the state capital, Minna and very unlikely to be connected to national grid in the shortest possible time.

Beside the provision of energy to the communities, the Mini-grid project brought a significant increase in land value. For instance, prior to the provision of electricity at that village, the average cost for a plot of land for development is about N15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Naira) only or about \$40. This has now appreciated to about N30,000 (Thirty Thousand Naira) appreciated to about \$80. Additionally, initially the demand for electricity meters was 282 at the inception of the programme now there is an existing demand for the meters by families in excess of 600.

Rural Access Mobility Project (RAMP)

focuses on mainly road infrastructure i.e. construction of feeder roads and culverts within the state to enhance Rural – Urban interaction. RAMP project have positive impact on employment, access to services, rural income, transport, farm output and agriculture value chain in Niger State particularly in the rural areas.



Tungan Jika Road
before intervention



Tungan Jika Road
after intervention

Unslumming

This project aims to reorganize growing communities without a plan (in this case Gidan Kwano) as well as improve the lives of the resident and petty traders through land titling so that they can have access to Macro/Micro credit for business/property development. The project also seeks to address the social and infrastructure dichotomy between the natives and property investors within the community. Data has been collected and analysis concluded. The concept of Unslumming, which was sponsored by GIZ, is now being accepted by Niger State Government that want to replicate it in other local communities.



Stakeholders meeting



Field work

Challenges / capacity gaps confronting human settlement improvement strategy

Insecurity

Types of Crime	2013	2014	2015	2016
Murder	109	170	129	204
Kidnapping	2	5	9	112
Armed Robbery	60	136	131	156
Theft	1118	752	422	977
Cattle Rustling	0	0	74	22

Capacity gaps in basic information critical to territorial planning and development collection .

- Accurate data on the development challenges of each of the 25 LGAs;
- Accurate data on the Local Economic Potentials of each of the 25 LGAs
- Accurate data on the sizes and density of the slums in the cities and towns of the state
- Accurate data on infrastructure backlog (water supply in particular) in the cities and towns and the 25 LGAs
- Human capital required for the effective operation and management of the 25 LGAs

Some critical factors militating against efficient and beneficial relationship between rural areas and their major urban centers.

- Informality of most activities.
- Lack of clear cut policy
- Capacity of the operators to implement
- enforcement
- Daerth in record and record keeping

Thank you !

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