



# RURAL GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION

Refining how rural regions reach decisions

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*“New governance is the bookend  
challenge to building a  
new economy in rural regions”*

*Mark Drabenstott  
Center for the Study on Rural America  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City*



*“The shifting political, technological, and social landscape, coupled with the ongoing challenge of balancing equity and efficiency in rural service provision, moves innovation centre stage”*

*Rural Innovation: Innovation in Public Services (Frances Rowe)*  
*NESTA Making Innovation Flourish*



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*“Innovations in public and private institutions are key to aligning governance with opportunity”*

*Mark Drabenstott  
Center for the Study on Rural America  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City*



*“Innovation is integral to the new ways of working required, and the future will be as much about how the public, private and community sectors work together, including new models of governance...”*

*Rural Innovation: Innovation in Public Services (Frances Rowe)*  
*NESTA Making Innovation Flourish*



## Innovative rural governance models can:

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- *Change* the narrative that constrain and define rural development.
- *Really allow* rural communities to “do more with less” ..
- *Elevate* the creativity of rural dwellers allowing these communities to make the most out of opportunities.
- *Help* build resilient rural communities.



# Moving policy responses in rural areas from conventional to innovative

Conventional		Innovative
Emphasis on public finance as the main source of investment		PARTICIPATORY APPROACH –mobilise savings and local investment.
Non retention of savings and local capital	<b><i>Financing of rural activities</i></b>	NEW JOB CREATING ACTIVITIES
Call for outside capital loans and subsidies		Collective Investment approach



# ...moving from conventional to innovative in rural areas

Conventional	<i>Low population density</i>	Innovative
Creation of services that do not correspond to the areas real needs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multifunctional services</li><li>• Creation of mobile services</li></ul>
Emphasis on building retirement homes	<i>Ageing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adaptation of transport services</li><li>• Set up distant assistant services</li><li>• elderly as “contributors”</li></ul>





## Considerations...

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1. The shifting roles of government in rural areas: What is role for the public, private and civil society? Increasing the participation of rural dwellers in decision making and delivery?
2. Crafting an integrated innovative rural governance approach: a look at one rural governance model.