

Smart Village Model – An innovative development booster for rural economic recovery

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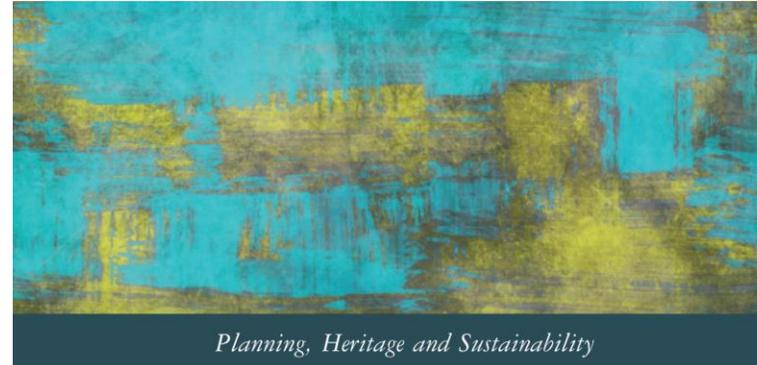
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Introduction

This Presentation is drawn from my book chapter 12 Fourth industrial revolution and rural development – a catalyst connect between rural and urban development in Culture and Rural-Urban Revitalization in South Africa: Indigenous knowledge, Policies and planning edited by Mziwoxolo Sirayi, Modimowabarwa Kanyane and Giulio Verdini, Routledge published in 2021.

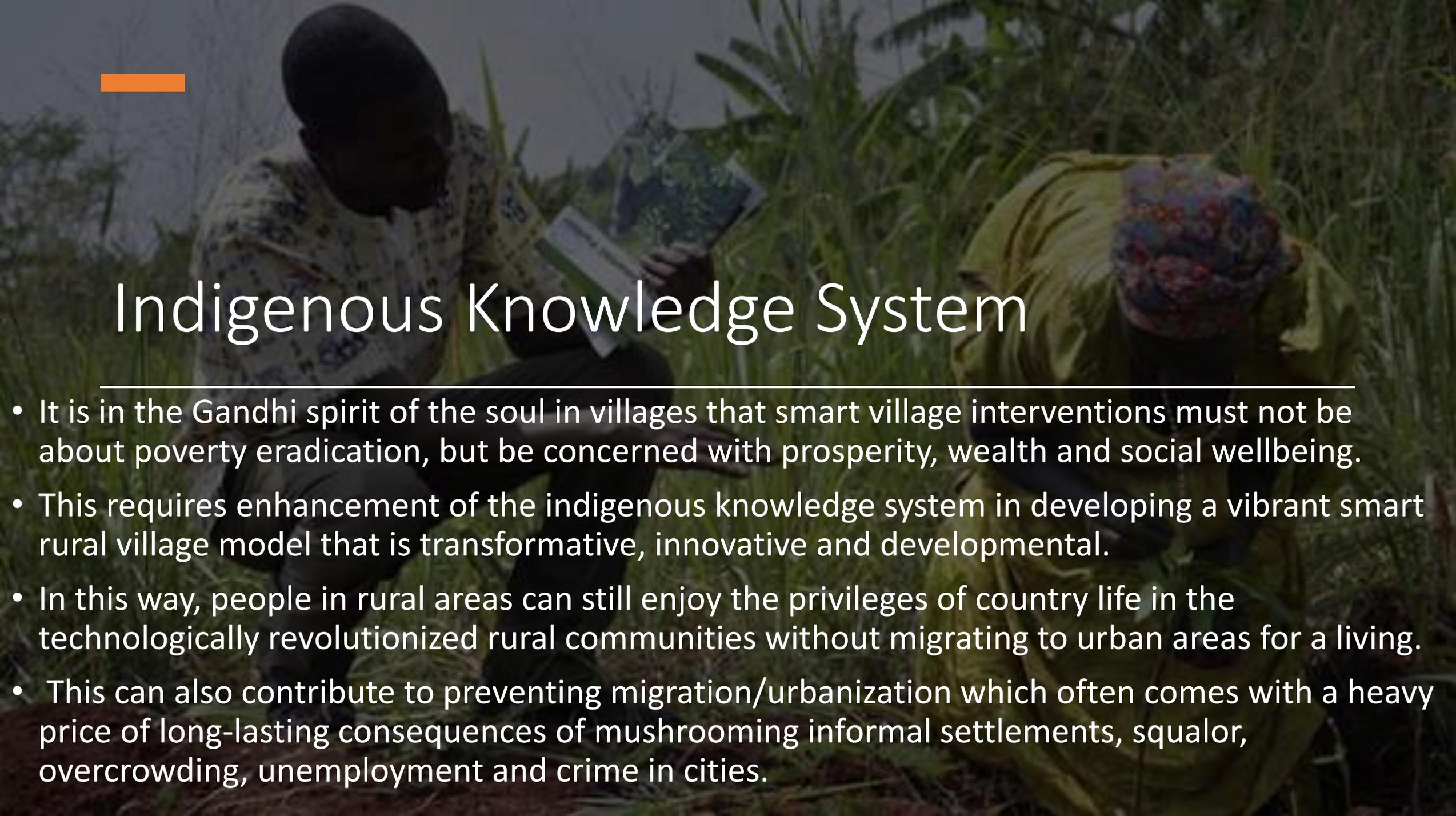


CULTURE AND RURAL- URBAN REVITALIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

**INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, POLICIES AND
PLANNING**

Edited by
Mziwoxolo Sirayi, Modimowabarwa Kanyane
and Giulio Verdini





Indigenous Knowledge System

- It is in the Gandhi spirit of the soul in villages that smart village interventions must not be about poverty eradication, but be concerned with prosperity, wealth and social wellbeing.
- This requires enhancement of the indigenous knowledge system in developing a vibrant smart rural village model that is transformative, innovative and developmental.
- In this way, people in rural areas can still enjoy the privileges of country life in the technologically revolutionized rural communities without migrating to urban areas for a living.
- This can also contribute to preventing migration/urbanization which often comes with a heavy price of long-lasting consequences of mushrooming informal settlements, squalor, overcrowding, unemployment and crime in cities.



Innovation, Culture and Development

- Grassroots innovations should not be undermined to boost economic recovery.
- The Chinese government for example, has increasingly strengthened the protection, inheritance, and construction of traditional culture.
- For this reason, the Chinese traditional culture has become the preferential part of friendly exchange between China and the international community.
- **Culture connects people to people and people to nature. Historically and globally, intangible cultural heritages of every village are symbolic expression of the culture of its nation.**
- Cultures require protection in the form of patents, intellectual property rights and bio-cultural community protocols against dissipation and loss.



Bio-cultural community protocols

- Bio-cultural community protocols serve as an instrument to demand fair and equitable treatment in processes of science, technology and business engagements with indigenous people.
- External parties (government agencies, researchers, companies and civil society organizations) can no longer impose themselves in a community to exploit intellectual property of the indigenous people.
- Bio-cultural community protocols attempt to regulate interactions between the indigenous community and external parties.
- It empowers the local people to know their rights against corporates whose intention is to exploit their rich cultural resources.



Smart rural village hubs

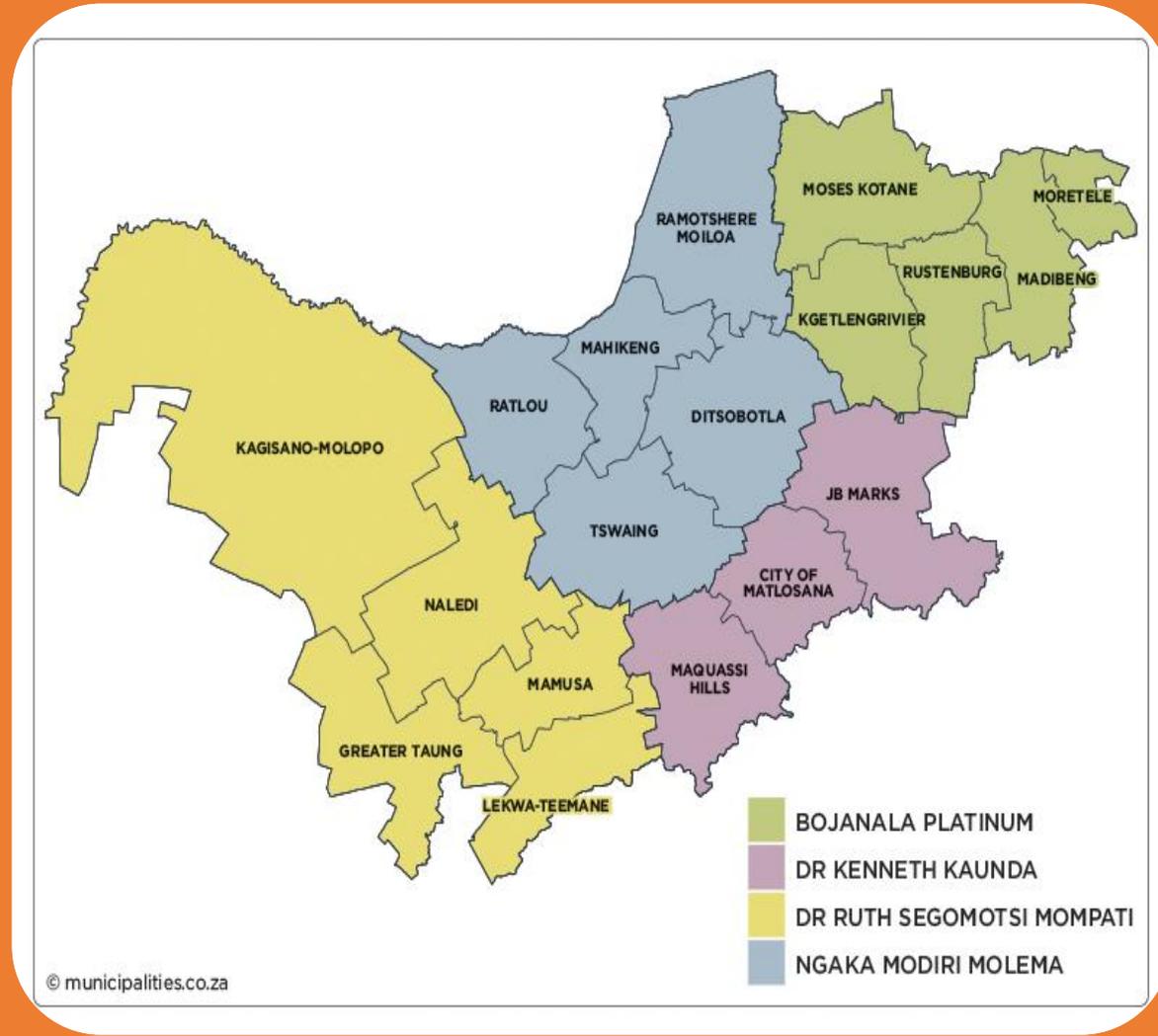
- According to UNESCO (2012), culture-led development also includes a range of non-monetized benefits, such as greater social inclusiveness and rootedness, resilience, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship for individuals and communities as well as the use of local resources, skills, and knowledge.
- Smart rural village hubs with cultural tourism mix could be introduced to have curio shops as stalls where indigenous materials and medicinal plant products could be bought by tourists and the public.
- These mixed-use hubs can be the focal point for people to work, organize, and share their cultures and indigenous knowledge to boost economic recovery.



Smart rural village hubs

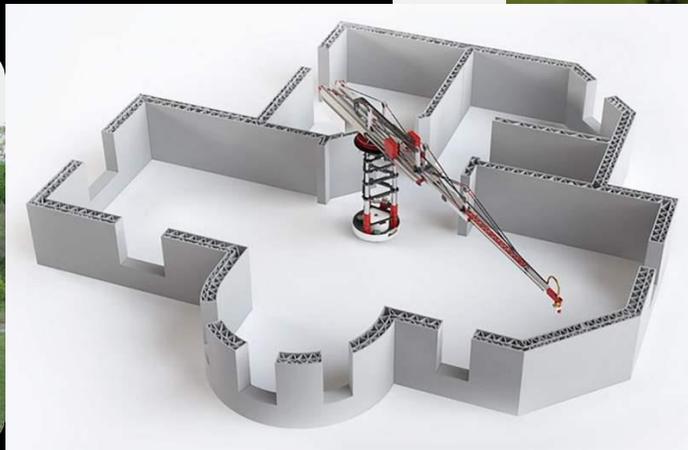
- While scholars, government officials, and planners elsewhere embrace cultural planning approach, it is in my view that more emphasis must be placed on indigenous knowledge system especially traditional medicine, cultural designs, artefacts, cultural tourism, mining and metallurgy which were neglected in spatial planning and development.
- Indigenous knowledge innovations are a characterization of a smart rural village with cultural tourism mix that has a potential to sustain a country life sought after by many people.
- The smart rural village hubs must be established by the government and supported by the business and civil society sectors to drive grassroots innovations in rural areas for economic recovery.
- These hubs underpinned by the UN sustainable development goals (green environment)— could create job opportunities for the youth who are susceptible to rural – urban migration.

- The Amahlubi community is located in Moses Kotane local municipality within the Bojanala Platinum District.
- The District has the population of 1 657 148 in 2016. On 20 September 1924, Amahlubi arrived in the North West from Alice in the Eastern Cape led by Nkosi Nonkonyana Shadrack Fuba Zibi.
- The 5 villages of Amahlubi include Welgeval, KwaNolanga, Welverdiend, Goedehoop, Khayakhulu with a current population of 13 598 people (Female: 7190, Male: 6408)



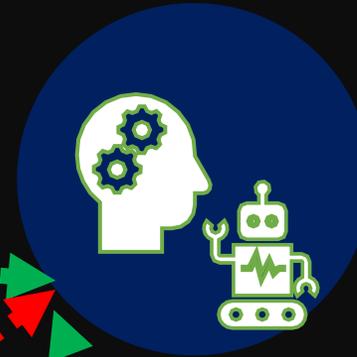
SRV HUB (Spatial Transformation)

- *It becomes appropriate to place the SRV hub right at the centre of the five villages, preferably, at the centre of Welgeval, Goedehoep and Nolanga – entrance of Nolanga (Rampampaspoort), which has a beautiful space and scenery view of the mountain – more accessible to all five villages*

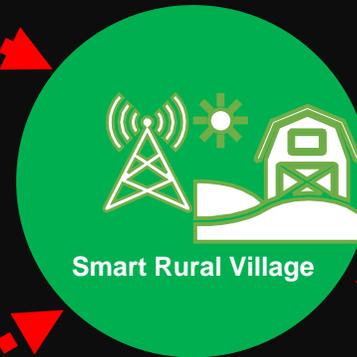




Rural areas/
villages



Internet of
Everything



Smart Rural Village



Smart home



Smart cities

Wind energy

Solar energy

Hydro energy

Fibre optic

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development			12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SRV HUB – IKS Act 2019

391 000
known Medicinal
plant species



- Rural people become part of mainstream economy for the first time through their indigenous knowledge
- IKS innovations – patents and publishing rights ownership
- Hospitality, recreation and cultural tourism, cultural sites/heritage
- M-Pesa type mobile cash money banking services
- Filming, photography and videography
- Performing arts, theatre and music – entertainment
- Indigenous sport (e.g. Tsoro/Morabaraba)
- Architecture, graphic designs, jewellery and crafts (Esther Mahlango Artwork)
- Exploring the prospects of using 3D Printing Technology for SRV hubs



- Many South Africans find it difficult to stay in rural areas where they come from.
- It is because most villages are remote and isolated from the main economic hubs of the country.
- An SRV Model aims to self correct this and make rural development more sustainable.



Deloitte Review

