

Session #5: Rural Transport Operations and Services.
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**Intermediate Means of Transport (IMT):
Motorized and Non-motorized, Including Inland Water Transport**

The rural travel needs can be categorized into two parts, on farm and off farm. Farm activities include travel for domestic needs such as collection of water and firewood and off farm travel is to access the markets and other services like schools and health centers.

Types of IMTs include the following: Bicycle-based modes, Motorcycle based modes, canoes and other inland water transport vehicles, pack animals, animals drawn carts, ropeways, and river crossing devices on wire rope, etc.

IMTs and affordability: Disseminating IMTs is a challenge worldwide. Affordability issues are mainly associated with the initial investment on transport and the cost of maintenance.

There is no economic development unless the transport needs of the people are considered and addressed appropriately. There should be modes and systems of transport appropriately designed at policy levels to suit the context and needs of the rural communities.

Poverty alleviation requires less isolation, improved mobility, and greater access to basic needs and services.

Infrastructure is important; however, mode choice and a means of transport is just as significant. Invest in transport, not just infrastructure

Needs of all stakeholders must be assessed and considered at all levels. All situations require participatory processes that involve all stakeholders in prioritizing, planning and implementing transport solutions.

Patterns of adoption of transport must be considered if there is a genuine need to satisfy the user's transportation needs.

Regulate and build local capacity. Adopt community labor-based methods for the construction and maintenance of rural roads.

Consider water transport networks for basic needs and services where feasible. Often rivers and canals are highways through land that would often be impassable.

Issues:

Planners, donors, policy makers, engineers, advocacy organizations transport designers and all others involved in rural transport must make a concerted effort in understanding and satisfying the needs of rural transport users.

Water transport issues: 1) Appropriate design of hydraulic structures, 2) Explore methods of integrating water and land transport

Increasing intermediate means of transport will require many, small, coordinated, decentralized, user-orientated, participatory initiatives. This will involve local promotion, pilot introductions, action-research, enhancing credit availability and developing a "critical mass" of technology in numerous different locations.

More research on types of cart-wheels (metal, wood, rubber). Research should include the on and off farm needs of rural transport users, pavement damage, rural versus urban, etc.