

# 2023-2024 第十届广东省中学生模拟联合国大会

The 10 th Guangdong High School Students

MUN Conference 2023-2024



英文（初中）A03 委员会背景文件

English Group A03(Junior High School)

## Background Guide

广东省中学生模拟联合国大会组委会

# 第十届广东省中学生模拟联合国大会 决赛议题

TOPIC

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Developing Agriculture and  
Protecting Women's Rights  
to Address  
Poverty Issue

GA

# Topic:Developing Agriculture and Protecting Women's Rights to Address Poverty Issue

Committee:GA

Language: English

Group: A03

## 1.Introduction

Rural poverty is a big problem when it comes to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was decided on by world leaders in 2015. To make this plan work, we need to focus on ending poverty in rural areas as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1 (no poverty). Poverty isn't just about not having enough money; it also means not having enough food, good schools, healthcare, and a say in important decisions (UN, 2022).





The United Nations measures poverty in two ways: absolute poverty, where families have very little income, and relative poverty, where families earn much less than others in their country. Most extremely poor people—about 79%—live in rural areas, where 17.2% of people live in poverty, compared to only 5.3% in cities. This happens because rural areas often don't have good markets, schools, roads, jobs, hospitals, or banks nearby (UN, 2015).

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) found that every dollar spent on fixing land and using it better can bring back up to \$30 in benefits for the economy (UNEP, 2023).

Around the world, 733 million people—many in faraway rural places—don't have electricity, and things like gas and food have become more expensive because of the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. In Africa, three-quarters of rural areas don't have electricity, making life harder for people there (UN DESA, N.d).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 statistics report that students attending urban schools outperform their counterparts in rural schools by a substantial 28-point margin, a discrepancy equivalent to the educational and economic gains from an entire extra year of schooling (Schleicher, 2018).

## **2.Role of GA**

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) is an essential part of global efforts to combat poverty. It brings together 193 countries to discuss and decide on crucial issues like poverty eradication and sustainable development. One of its main focuses is implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to improve life for everyone on Earth. The GA has passed important resolutions and reports, such as Resolution 73/244 and Secretary-General Report 75/189, specifically addressing rural poverty (United Nations, 2019; United Nations, 2020).

The GA's Second Committee, also known as the Economic and Financial Committee, plays a vital role in these efforts. This committee discusses economic policies, financial support for

development, and ways to achieve sustainable development goals. For instance, it has highlighted the importance of family farming by declaring 2019 to 2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. This initiative, led by organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), aims to ensure that families have enough food and can farm in a way that doesn't harm the environment (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2021).

The GA encourages countries to work together and supports programs that help rural communities gain better access to resources like education, healthcare, and jobs. By promoting these goals, the GA helps create opportunities for people living in poverty to improve their lives and build better futures for themselves and their communities. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also play a crucial role by working on the ground to support the GA's initiatives and help implement its plans (United Nations Development Programme, 2023; Oxfam International, 2023).

### **3.Eradicating poverty and SDGs**

Eradicating poverty is a big goal that countries around the world are working towards, especially through the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Poverty means not having enough money, lacking access to basic things like education, healthcare, clean water, and proper toilets. It affects many people globally and keeps them from having opportunities to improve their lives (United Nations, 2021).



In rural areas, poverty is even harder to overcome because of things like not enough roads, problems getting products to markets to sell, and damage to the environment (FAO, 2019). Fixing these problems needs plans that cover everything from helping communities make more money to making sure everyone is treated fairly and that the environment is kept safe.

Getting rid of poverty is really important for reaching several of the SDGs. SDG 1 aims to end poverty everywhere by 2030, seeing it as a major thing that gets in the way of making things better (United Nations, 2015). Helping people out of poverty also helps with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by making sure there's enough food and good farming and by making life better in rural areas (FAO, 2020). Reducing poverty also helps with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by making healthcare better and getting rid of differences in health (WHO, 2021).

When countries invest in getting rid of poverty, they get back lots of good things. Studies show that reducing poverty makes the economy grow faster, helps people get along better, and makes sure that there aren't such big differences between rich and poor (World Bank, 2022). Getting rid of poverty also helps groups of people who might not get treated fairly, like women and children. It makes sure that everyone can join in making things better and helps everyone learn more (UNDP, 2023).

Even though things are getting better, there are still things that get in the way of getting rid of poverty for good. Some people don't get the same chances as others, there aren't enough things like roads and buildings in some places, and sometimes the whole world's money system has problems (IMF, 2023). Going forward, plans that cover lots of things, letting everyone take part, and all countries working together are the best way to get rid of poverty and reach the SDGs by 2030 (World Economic Forum, 2021).

#### **4.The obstacle of eradicating poverty**

Sustainable agriculture and managing natural resources are crucial for helping rural areas develop and reduce poverty. However, there are challenges that make this difficult.

Climate change is a big problem for farmers. It brings unpredictable weather like floods and droughts, making it hard to grow crops. Farmers are using new methods called climate-smart practices to cope. These include better ways to use water and soil, and growing different crops that can survive in changing climates (United Nations Development Programme et al., 2019).



Even though agriculture is important for many countries' economies, rural areas still struggle with not having enough food. Many people in rural areas work in agriculture, but they often don't earn much money. Technologies like precision farming help farmers grow more food, but they need more support to do this effectively (World Economic Forum, 2022).

Agriculture also uses a lot of water, which can be a problem when water is scarce. It's also a major source of greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022). To help, experts suggest using farming techniques that are good for the environment and growing crops that can survive dry conditions (World Bank, 2023).

Another challenge is that a lot of food is wasted or lost after it's produced. This waste harms the environment and means less food for people who need it. Efforts to reduce waste and make farming more efficient are important to help farmers and communities (Rolle, 2022).

Women play a big role in agriculture but often face discrimination. They make up almost half of the agricultural workforce but have less access to resources like land and money. In many places, women work



hard on farms but don't get paid enough or have a say in important decisions (United Nations Women, 2018; Oxfam International, 2023).

To solve these problems, countries and organizations need to support farmers better, especially women. They can help by providing better tools and training, ensuring fair wages, and giving women equal rights in farming and business (United Nations, 2012; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2023).

These efforts are important for making sure everyone has enough food and can live better lives in rural areas.

## **5.Conclusion**

Eradicating poverty in rural areas faces several significant challenges that must be addressed to achieve sustainable development goals. Climate change poses a major obstacle, bringing unpredictable weather patterns like floods and droughts that disrupt farming and food production. Farmers are adopting climate-smart practices to cope, focusing on efficient water and soil use and cultivating resilient crop varieties. Despite agriculture's economic importance, many rural communities still struggle with food insecurity, highlighting the need for enhanced support and technologies like precision farming to boost food production effectively.

Moreover, agriculture's environmental impact, including excessive water use and greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbates climate change. To mitigate these effects, promoting environmentally friendly farming techniques and drought-resistant crops is crucial. Addressing food waste is another critical aspect; substantial post-production losses not only harm the environment but also exacerbate food shortages in vulnerable communities. Efforts to improve farming efficiency and reduce waste are essential for supporting rural livelihoods.



Gender inequality further complicates poverty alleviation efforts in agriculture. Women, who constitute nearly half of the agricultural workforce, often face discrimination in accessing resources like land and finance. Enhancing women's access to tools, training, fair wages, and decision-making roles in farming and business is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable rural development.

### **Question to consider**

- ① What does poverty mean, especially in rural areas? How does it affect people's lives beyond just income?
- ② Why is eradicating poverty in rural areas important for achieving global goals like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- ③ How does climate change impact agriculture in rural communities? What are some strategies farmers can use to adapt to changing environmental conditions?
- ④ Why is gender equality important in agriculture, and how does gender discrimination affect rural communities?
- ⑤ What are some examples of successful initiatives or programs that have helped reduce poverty in rural areas? How can these be replicated or adapted in different regions?
- ⑥ What are the economic and social benefits of investing in rural development and poverty reduction?
- ⑦ How can individuals, communities, and governments work together to support sustainable agriculture and reduce poverty in rural areas?

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