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**Dr. Julio A. Berdegue** is Principal Researcher at Rimisp-Latin American Center for Rural Development, Santiago, Chile. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Science from Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Presently, at Rimisp he coordinates the Collaborative Program on Territorial Cohesion for Development, a research-based policy advice and capacity-development program addressing issues of spatial inequalities in several Latin American countries.

Dr. Berdegue has published extensively on different aspects of rural development, including on territorial development, rural non-farm employment, the role of small and medium cities in rural development, and the changing structures of agri-food and rural markets and their impact on small and medium rural producers and enterprises. According to Google Scholar, his paper with Alexander Schejtman, on Rural Territorial Development is the most-quoted paper internationally on the subject.

Based on his research on territorial development, Dr. Berdegue has advised national and sub-national governments in several Latin American countries, most recently in Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. The President of Colombia recently invited Dr Berdegue to participate in the board of a major initiative to revise and redesign the country's agricultural and rural development policies, and in the same country he is responsible for developing a strategy to scale out territorial development projects to dozens of regions. In Mexico he is working with the Ministries' of Finance and of Social Development in the design and implementation of a brand new program, "Productive Territories", that will create economic development opportunities to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries of the country's well-known conditional cash transfer program, *Oportunidades*. In Peru he has been asked by the President's Office to design a new program to take advantage of the substantial infrastructure investments done over the past years, to activate the rural economy in regions of high poverty rates. In Chile Dr Berdegue and his team are leading the development of a standard and a system to certify the quality of the services rendered by regional and municipal governments.

Dr. Berdegue's work on territorial development has received the generous support of IDRC (International Development Research Centre, Canada), as well as additional grants from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), the Ford Foundation, and others.

Dr Berdegue has been a member of the boards of several international organizations, including the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) that he chaired between 2008 and 2011, and the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED).