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RURAL AREAS

**DIVERSITY AND ADAPTABILITY OF GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS FOR
SHARED RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURES**

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Effective governance in rural areas is highly context-dependent, as universal governance panaceas do not exist. Consequently, institutional diversity (i.e., the variety of rules and norms used to manage shared resources) is a key feature of sustainable governance systems. Despite its recognized importance, quantitative analyses of governance diversity remain limited. In this study, we present an analytical framework to examine governance systems for shared resources (e.g., water, pastures, and land) and infrastructures (e.g., irrigation canals) in rural settings. Drawing on a wide range of empirical cases, including irrigated agriculture, rainfed agriculture, sedentary livestock farming, and

nomadic and transhumant pastoral systems, we integrate social and life science methodologies and use tools such as diversity indices and network analysis, to demonstrate how institutional diversity can be systematically measured and compared. Our results show that governance diversity varies according to both internal factors (e.g., type of resource, community size) and external drivers (e.g., socio-cultural and ecological contexts). This framework contributes to a better understanding of how diverse governance arrangements emerge and adapt, offering insights for the design of context-sensitive policies for sustainable resource management.

Palavras-chave: governance; common-pool resources; natural resources; collective action.