

Deconstructing the Rural and the Urban:

Lessons from Recent Desakota Research in South Asia, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and China

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Outrageous Conclusions from Uncomfortable Knowledge

- Urban problems, water problems, climate change – are all **wicked problems** with nested layers of more trouble that won't go away soon
- Research has to unearth new, and **uncomfortable** ways of thinking
- Apple-slicing by households and **household decision-making**
- Rural and urban are merely **vanishing ends** of the *desakota* spectrum
- Technological choice and adaptation depends on **household risk perception**
- Not spatial, but spatio-temporal plus risk, which means **rethinking sustainability**
- All these are related to water use or misuse leading to mere environmental **stress or** to tipping beyond the threshold into **insults**

RURAL

URBAN

RURAL

**DESAKOTA
REGION**

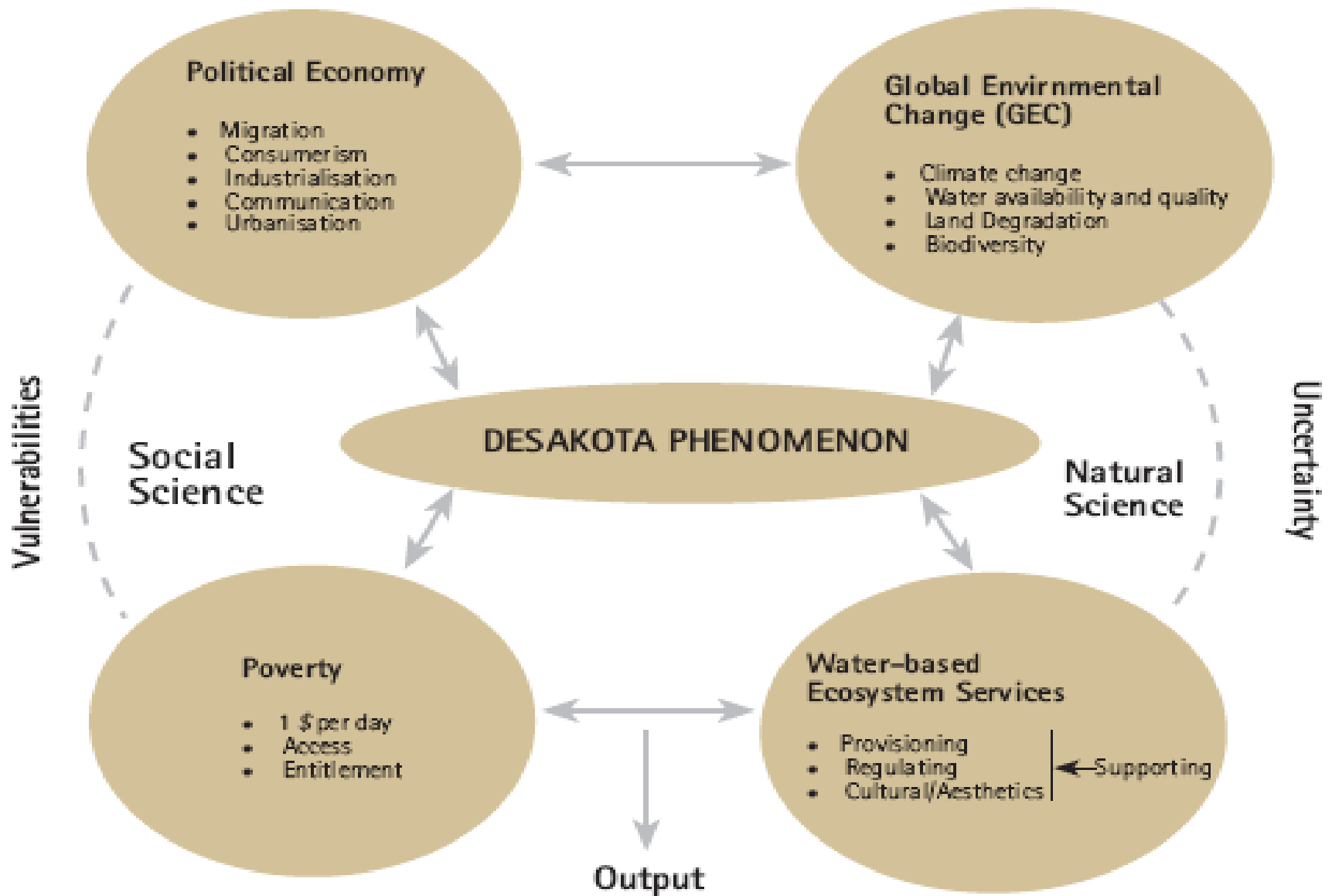
URBAN

Poverty

The diagram consists of three main elements arranged horizontally. On the left is a light beige oval containing the word 'Poverty'. In the center is a light beige rounded rectangle containing a bulleted list of five factors: Technology, Infrastructure, Markets, Governance, and Culture. On the right is another light beige oval containing the text 'Water-based ecosystem'. A double-headed arrow connects the 'Poverty' oval to the central box, and another double-headed arrow connects the central box to the 'Water-based ecosystem' oval.

- Technology
- Infrastructure
- Markets
- Governance
- Culture

Water-based
ecosystem



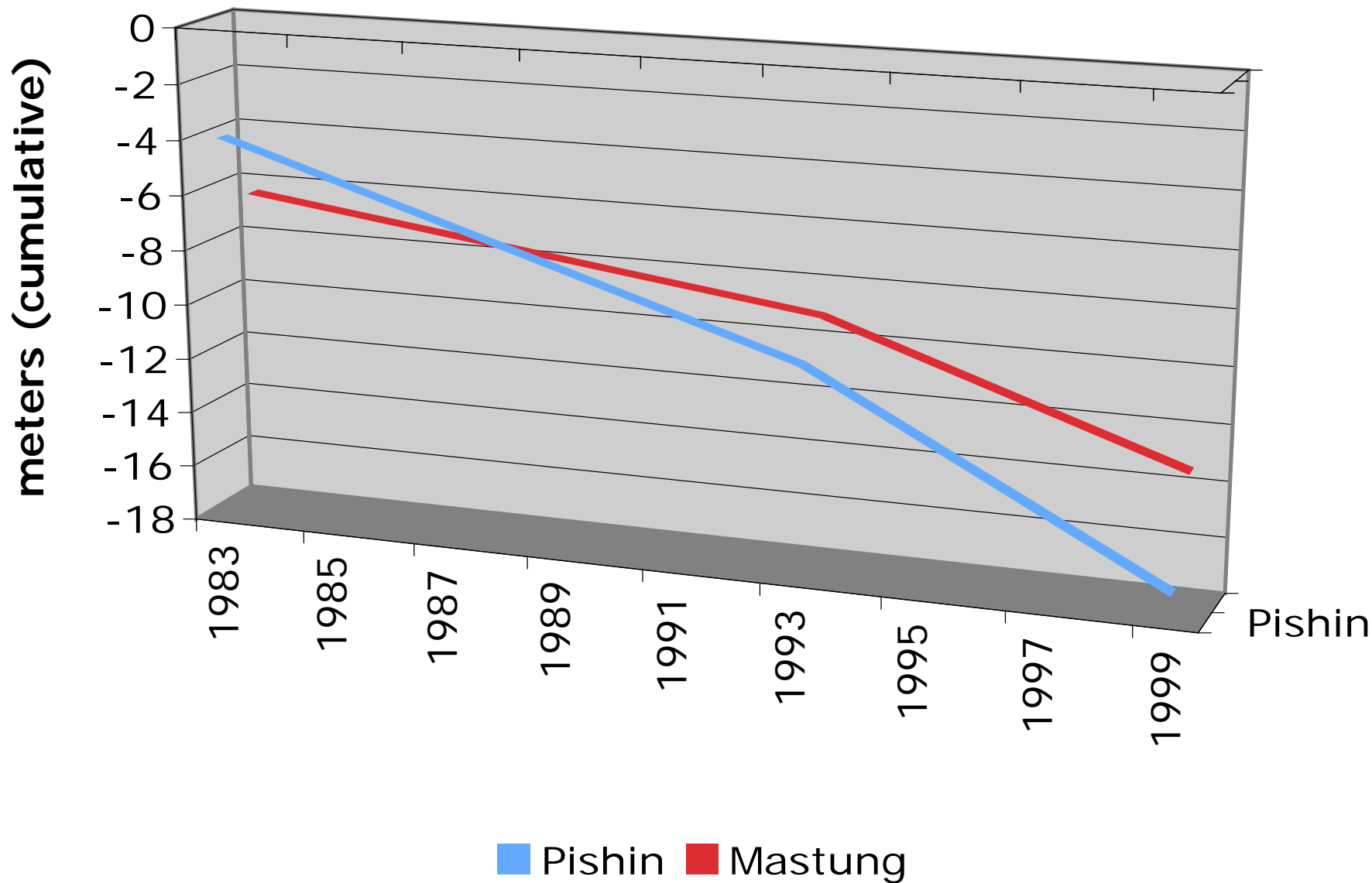
Evidence based gaps and research question



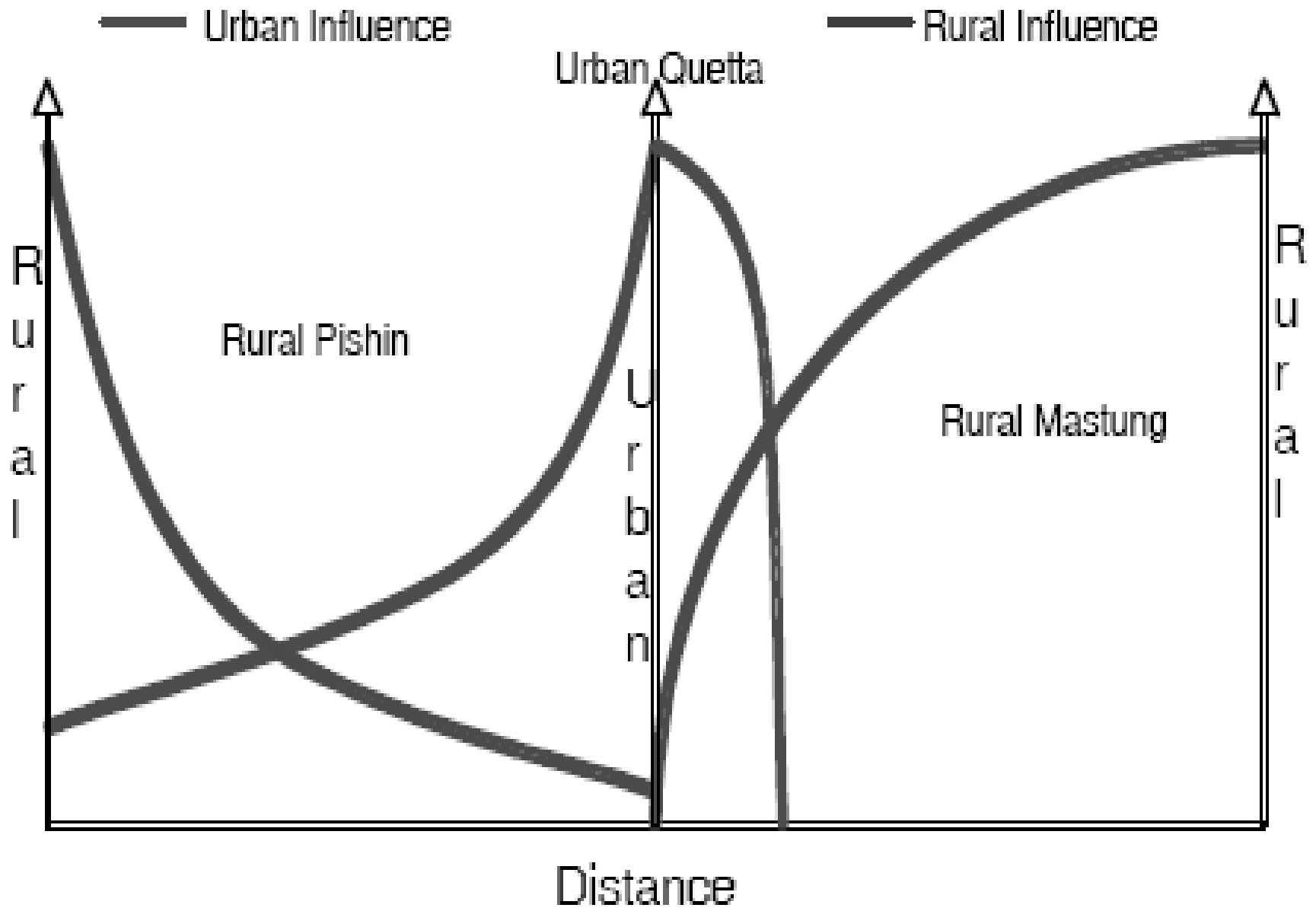
Photo by Eward Khan

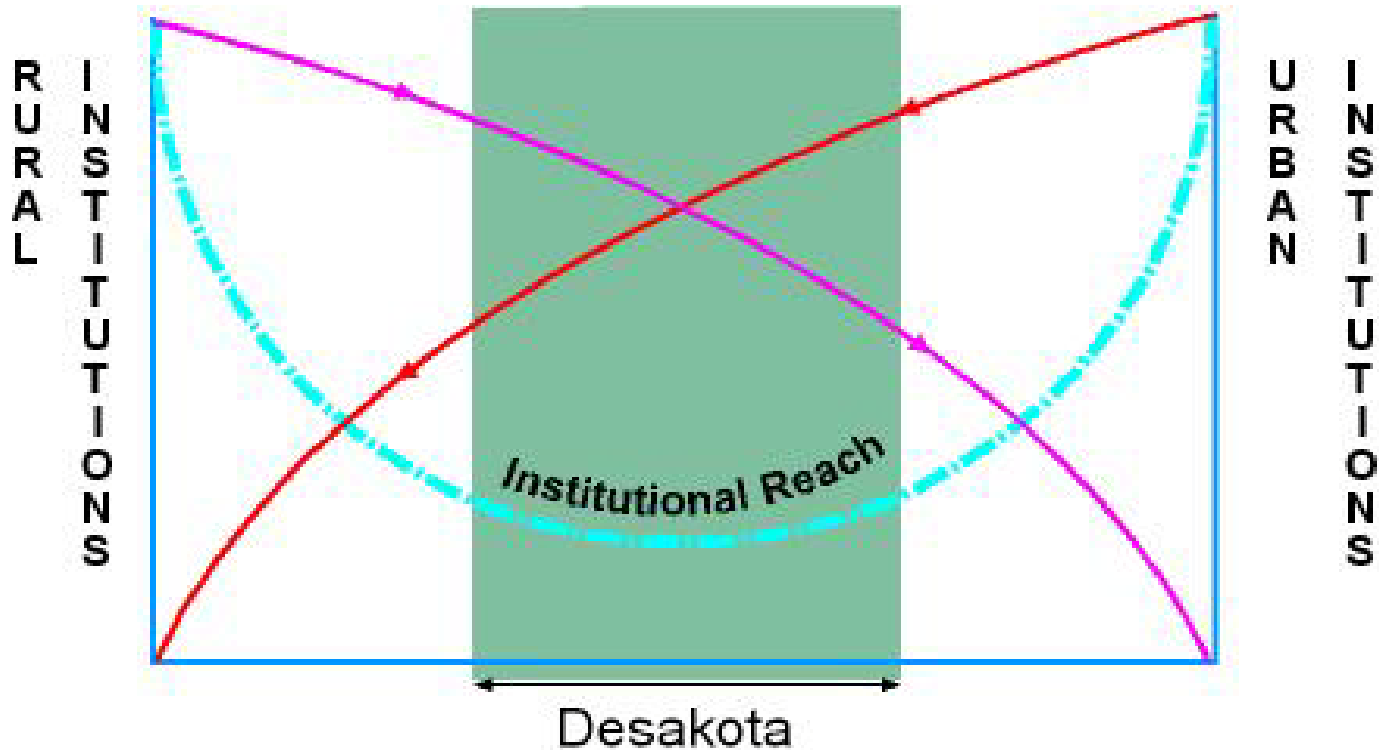


Average Water Table Decline

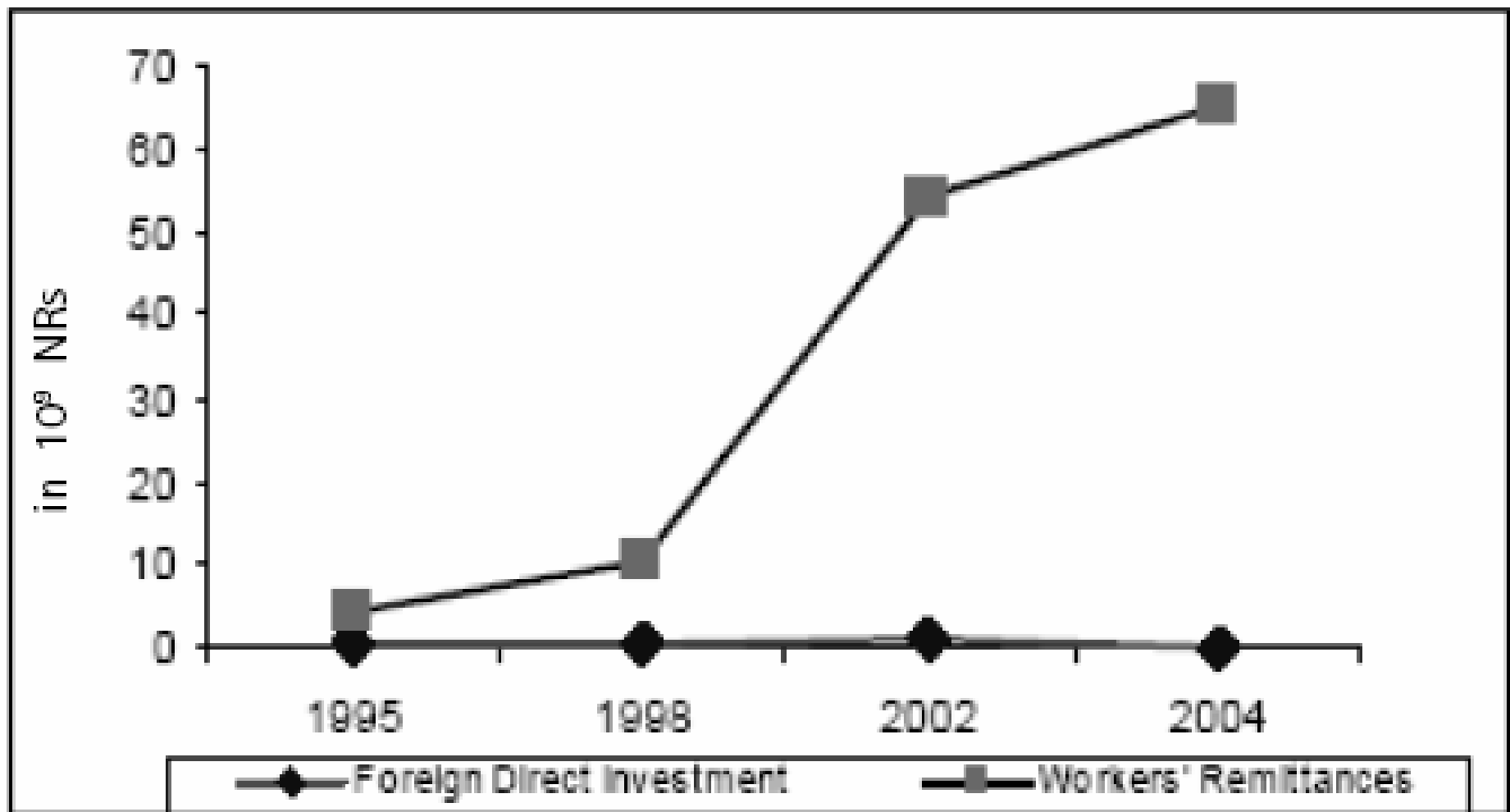








Institutional Incubation Region





Constructive Engagement of Plural Social Solidarities

