

AGRICULTURE, FOOD POLICIES AND NUTRITION

A pre-conference workshop on emerging evidence and innovative methods

Tuesday, 10th of February, 2015: 9am to 5pm,

Distinction Hotel and Conference Center, Rotorua, New Zealand

(site of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) annual Conference, February 10-13, 2015)

Convener contact details:

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Summary: The past decade has witnessed a tremendous surge of interest in leveraging agricultural development – and food policies more generally – for improving nutrition, and justifiably so. Agricultural and food policies can be important drivers of pro-poor (and pro-nutrition) income growth, of dietary quality in subsistence or semi-subsistence farming systems, of relative food price changes (with ramifications for both rural and urban areas), of maternal and child health, and of women's control of household resources. At the same time, there are plausible situations in which food policies might have negative effects.

Despite this mounting interest, there is a striking dearth of rigorous evidence on the linkages between food policies and nutrition. Several systematic reviews of experimental interventions have found only a handful of rigorous evaluations of nutrition-sensitive projects, but scarcely any research has attempted to gauge the nutritional impacts of larger scale agricultural programs, such as Asia's Green Revolutions in rice and wheat production. And food policy research more generally – including research on trade, public investments, pricing policies and safety nets – has only rarely attempted to gauge nutritional impacts.

In light of this important knowledge gap, this workshop will aim to identify the key research questions linking food policies to nutrition, review existing theories and evidence, and present cutting-edge empirical research on the topic. An innovation of this workshop relative to previous events is a much broader focus on food policies across different stages of development, across different regions, and across different units of aggregation (micro, macro).

The workshop will be structured around four thematic sessions covering the different nutritional problems of low-, middle- (transitioning) and upper-income countries, as well as both micro and macroeconomic approaches to understanding the linkages between agriculture, food policies and nutrition. Nine leading experts in this field will each give a 20 minute presentation on cutting edge research, allowing ample time for active audience participation.

The workshop is to open to all, and we very much look forward to your participation.

Workshop schedule

Start	End	Presenter	Topic
9:00	11:00	Session 1 – Agriculture and nutrition in the least developed countries	
		Welcoming remarks	
		Derek Headey, IFPRI, Washington DC	<i>The Role of Agricultural Development in Reducing Child Undernutrition</i>
		Raghbendra Jha, Australian National University	<i>Poverty Nutrition Traps in Rural India</i>
		Ellen Goddard, University of Alberta	<i>Dietary Diversity, Food Substitution and Nutrient Intake in Kerala, India</i>
11:00	11:15	<Morning tea/coffee break>	
11:15	12:45	Session 2 – Modelling approaches to agriculture, food policy and nutrition	
		James Thurlow, IFPRI, Washington DC	<i>Agriculture and Nutrition: A Macroeconomic perspective</i>
		Mario Herrero, CSIRO, Australia	<i>Livestock and Nutrition in Developing Countries</i>
12:45	1:45	<Lunch break>	
1:45	3:15	Session 3 – Agriculture and nutrition during economic transition	
		Wendy Umberger, The University of Adelaide	<i>Supermarkets, Diet Transition and Over-nutrition in Indonesia.</i>
		Raghav Gaiha, University of Delhi	<i>Decoding the Growth-Nutrition Nexus in China</i>
3:15	3:30	Afternoon tea/coffee break>	
3:30	5:00	Session 4 – Agriculture, Food Policy and Nutrition in Developed Countries	
		Joanna MacEwan, Precision Health Economics	<i>Economics of Obesity in High Income Countries</i>
		Julian Alston, University of California, Davis	<i>Agriculture, Food Policy and Nutrition in Developed Countries</i>