

Applied Economics (APEC)

Student Seminar

FALL 2023 SERIES PRESENTS:

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IFPRI, 2020 ALUMNI

Myths and Facts about Agri-Food Value Chains: A Respondent-Driven Sampling Approach



Time:

Wed. Nov. 1st, 2-3PM CT

Place:

119 Ruttan Hall

Zoom Option:

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/98749918936>

Details:

<https://apecseminar.github.io/>

ABSTRACT:

Existing research in agricultural and development economics focuses almost exclusively on producers and consumers at the extreme ends of the market system. Recent research, however, suggests that intermediary actors—those operating between the farmgate and final retailers—account for a substantial share value-added produced by the entire agricultural sector of an economy. Although many factors exist, the lack of quality data represents a formidable constraint on empirical research of intermediary agri-food value chain actors. A key challenge in the task to systematically collect data on intermediary agri-food value chain actors is that value chains take the form of a network, with actors at various stages linked together by a series of transactions. For each commodity, within a given geographic region, and at a given moment in time we have limited ex ante knowledge about the structure, scale, or shape of these networks. We present a novel data collection method designed to collect information about intermediary agri-food value chain actors and link these actors together via a series of transactions. We implement a “respondent driven sampling” data collection approach within two different value chains in two countries: arabica coffee and soybeans in Uganda and rice and potatoes in Bangladesh. These data allow us to document stylized facts and dispel myths about employment, financial needs and access, and the structure of the intermediary stages of agri-food value chains.