

ABE Initiative Seminar

Dietary Patterns and Nutritional Impacts of Rising Food Prices: Evidence from African Countries

by Dr. Satoru Shimokawa

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Abstract: The recent global shocks and trends of rising food prices have raised the need for understanding better their socioeconomic influences. This study investigates the nutritional impacts of rising food prices in six African countries and how the impacts are related to domestic dietary patterns. Exploiting the price elasticity of food demand estimated in previous studies, we constructed the elasticity of calorie and protein consumption with respect to food prices. We find that, while increasing cereal prices



has the largest negative influences on both calorie and protein consumption in all the countries, the negative influences are particularly large in the countries whose diets highly depend on a single staple cereal while small in the countries whose diets have alternative staple foods. Our findings also highlight the importance of stabilizing cereal prices to reduce calorie deficiency while it may not be enough to improve protein deficiency.

We welcome students and teaching staffs who have interests in food and agriculture issues in developing countries.

Dr. Satoru Shimokawa is Associate Professor in the School of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University in Japan. He obtained his Ph.D. (Applied Economics) from Cornell University in 2007 and was employed as an Assistant Professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from 2007 to 2015. He also currently serves as an associate editor for the international journal Food Policy. His research interests cover development microeconomics, agricultural economics, and health economics.

Date&Time: 11:00—12:30, Friday June 23, 2017

Venue: Small Meeting Room (C-228)
2nd Floor of Faculty of Agriculture Main Bldg.

Language: English

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