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Changing dairy market environment: effect on cooperative organization, competition, and price risk management. Comparative analysis between Germany and the United States

Vermeersch, Pieter. 234 pages; [M.S. dissertation]. United States – Arkansas: University of Arkansas; 2011. AAT 1497644.

The dairy market environment in the United States of America and in Europe is changing partially due to a change in policies supporting free markets. The effect of the change in the dairy market environment in the United States and Germany on cooperative organization, competition, and price risk management is elaborated in this thesis by means of a literature survey including governmental documents, industry documents, and published scientific articles.

The thesis provides a closer look to the interaction between two players within the dairy market chain, i.e. the farmers and the processors. Both players are confronted with increasing accessibility of the markets which increases the importance of trade and increases the volatility of the price. Dairy cooperatives transform their organizational structure in order to adapt strategies to cope with the increasing international competition. However, the consolidation present on the procurers' side of the market puts dairy farmers in a weak bargaining position. Policy makers are aware of these malfunctions within the market and are suggesting alternative policies that conform to the World Trade Organization negotiations. The stimulation of producer organizations, interbranch organizations and the use of futures markets and contracting to reduce price risk are advised by the European Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture. The market changes and policy changes create opportunities for farmers and processors in both countries to diversify and to increase production. Processors have the opportunity to become world players.

Contesting the state in Ghana's cocoa trade: The case of the Kuapa Kokoo Farmers' Union, 1957–2004

Amoah-Boampong, Cyrelene Merrilyne. 299 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Illinois: Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; 2011. AAT 3460284.

In the twenty-first century, African farmers are still in the grips of economic stagnation and are being subjected to neo-liberal developmental policies such as structural adjustment and trade liberalization. However, small-scale producers have not disengaged from the state as some scholars assert like Goran Hyden and Victor Azarya . In Ghana, they came together in the form of a farmers' union to address their economic needs not through the "economy of affection" where they relied on kinship and other forms of familial alliances but rather through networks of market-oriented economic association in the era of trade liberalization in Ghana. One such association for agriculture producers was the Kuapa Kokoo Farmers' Union, a cocoa farmers' association.

The formation of the Kuapa Kokoo Farmers' Union created a complex interaction between the state and agricultural producers. Smallholder cocoa producers, through such organizations, laid claim as actors in economic development. The state, through its historic role as financier of agricultural production, tried to find new avenues to dominate rural producers even in a post liberalized world, where the state was supposed to be withdrawing from active involvement in the economy and allowing the private sector to be the main engine of economic growth. It is within this framework of contestation that this study contends that scholars should examine the relations between state and agricultural producers, and the implications of this relationship on economic development and the marketplace. I argue that this complex interaction is not a clear situation of the "economy of affection" or the total dominance of the state but rather a complex interaction in which the state most often has the upper hand but does not suppress the ability of agricultural producers to be meaningful actors in the marketplace. Commodity farmers are not limited to the sphere of production or "exit" from the national economy but try to empower their members through fair trade practices and direct involvement in the confectionery industry in order to take control over their product and become active participants in the world market.

Embeddedness and the Dynamics of Strategy Processes: The Case of AMUL Cooperative, India

Ghosh, Abhijit. 314 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].Canada: McGill University (Canada); 2011. AAT NR74383.

Strategy scholars point to the need for developing more dynamic views of strategy formation that can transcend the paradox between agency and change. This thesis sets out to understand the embeddedness of strategy making, which recognizes the agency of actors in interaction with intra- and extra-organizational contexts.

Social enterprises provide an ideal context for studying an embedded view of strategy, as they embrace both social and economic goals and adopt unconventional business models that allow for greater participation of constituents at multiple levels. Though they are ubiquitous, few strategy formation studies have been conducted in social enterprises. Given the scope for better understanding how organizational strategy is embedded in the larger context, this study focuses on an exemplary social enterprise, AMUL, India's most successful cooperative, organizing millions of milk producers. Among the most trusted indigenous brands, it has competed successfully with bigger multinationals. This study provides a rich analysis of the strategy process in this organization and its evolution.

I make three contributions to the extant strategy process literature. First, using social movement theory, I show how organizational formation interacts with the political and social contexts. As strategies implicated in the organizational formation process are under-theorized, this study fills that gap. Second, I provide a contextual understanding of the processes by which social enterprises grow to achieve scale and scope economies. The study shows the interactive dynamics of AMUL's strategic intent and the government, and the effects on AMUL's growth through product diversification. Third, I depict the interaction of planning and emergent processes that set AMUL on an extraordinary growth path, through active social embedding of AMUL in relations with its members. The interactive intra-organizational dynamics between the middle management, boundary actors, and members is documented to enhance our understanding of processes that underlie the achievement of economies of scale and scope typically taken for granted as being achieved without explaining how.

Reinventing Africa into a Global Supplier of Food Goods: An Analysis of Agri-business Development, Sustainability, Supply Chain Integration and Export in Developing Economies

Chisholm, Lisa Michelle. 106 pages; [M.B.A. dissertation].United States – California: University of California, Riverside; 2011. AAT 1496682.

This paper explores the commercial potential of indigenous African crops and models a supply chain that integrates small-scale cooperative farms with large-scale cultivation for agricultural export. The research addresses the existing systems' deficiencies while analyzing the prospect for global supply chain expansion for food products sourced from Africa to China. The model seeks to overcome current challenges and enable competitive advantage, as well as infrastructure and economic development.

Solving the "Coffee Paradox": Understanding Ethiopia's coffee cooperatives through Elinor Ostrom's theory of the commons

Holmberg, Susan Ruth. 173 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Amherst; 2011. AAT 3465010.

This dissertation evaluates the applicability of Elinor Ostrom's theory of the commons to other forms of collective action by mapping it on a case study of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union in Ethiopia and its efforts to overcome the vast disparities that have long structured the global coffee commodity chain (the "Coffee Paradox"). The conclusions I draw are the following. While Ostrom's theory has serious omissions, it also sheds much needed light on the struggles of Ethiopia's coffee farmers to overcome their poverty. Both the design principles that Ostrom identifies for governance rules and her list of predictors for successful common property resource management institutions suggest that Ethiopia's coffee cooperatives could be in peril. However, by expanding Ostrom's governance framework to incorporate a broader enabling role for governments as well as supportive roles for civic organizations, NGOs, and social movements, we see greater potential for the success of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union.

Three Essays on Trade Liberalization and Korean Agriculture

Yoo, Chun Kwon. 136 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Oregon: Oregon State University; 2011. AAT 3452537.

Since the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (URAA) in 1994, global competition in Korean agricultural markets has significantly increased. The objective of this dissertation is to identify the effects of trade liberalization on productivity and pricing in the Korean rice market (Essay 1 and 2) and on the entire agricultural sector (Essay 3).

Rice is the major agricultural commodity in Korean agriculture with Rice Processing Complexes (RPC), i.e. agricultural cooperatives, playing a major role in the rice processing industry. Essays 1 and 2 examine RPCs adjustment to the increasingly competitive market environment. The first essay draws on the

emerging heterogeneous-firms trade model to test the hypothesis that trade liberalization forces least productivity firms to exit (extensive margin) and encourages reallocation of resources and market share to high productivity firms (intensive margin) within an industry. The above churning results in an increase in the average productivity of the industry. Results from using plant-level RPC data from 2002-2008 to test the above hypothesis show that international competition via increases in rice import (Minimum Market Access) has the largest effect on RPCs' productivity. In particular, greater competition shifts the left tail of the productivity distribution to the right, increasing the median productivity of the Korean rice processing industry. Thus, the above findings suggest that RPCs, often considered to be quasi-public firms shielded from competition, face significant adjustment following trade liberalization.

Economic theory suggests that a key input, i.e. raw product that farmer-members deliver, is treated as given in marketing cooperatives' optimization, unlike in the case of profit maximizing firms. Thus, only if cooperatives minimize the cost of conventional inputs (labor and capital) cost and additionally, set the price of the raw product optimally, their production is efficient. Essay 2 examines RPCs' pricing efficiency, based on the above theory, by incorporating farmers' supply function of raw product (rice) into hypothesized RPCs' optimization framework. Results show that only large RPCs' pricing and thus, production is efficient. For small and medium RPCs, processing size, i.e. realizing economies of scale, is important for their efficiency. The latter finding suggests merger of neighboring small and medium RPCs to both expand supply of raw rice and lower processing costs. In fact, results show that post-merger RPCs have attained pricing efficiency similar to large RPCs. Since 2002, about 20 percent of Korean RPCs have merged adjusting to the competitive market and improving pricing efficiency and overall productivity.

In the third essay, the effects of agricultural openness on aggregate agricultural productivity and farmers' welfare in Korea are examined. Results indicate that the openness significantly improves agricultural productivity, with a marked increase following URAA. However, in real terms, farm products' price and net farm business income have declined after trade liberalization. The findings show that agricultural trade liberalization has greatly benefitted Korean consumers, but the net impact on farmers' welfare from productivity growth, real price decline and transfer payments is less clear.

The three essays show that Korean agriculture has been adjusting to the increasingly competitive environment in primary and processing sectors, contributing to overall gains for the Korean economy. Encouraging resource reallocation towards more competitive segments of Korean agriculture along with

targeted transfer payments to revitalize losers from trade are needed to continue to realize and share gains from trade.

A village-level economic evaluation of the Southwest Poverty Reduction Project
Mo, Xiugen. 149 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Mississippi: Mississippi State University; 2011. AAT 3450319.

This research evaluates the post-program treatment effects of the Southwest Poverty Reduction Project (SWPRP), a large-scale (\$463.55 million) rural development project jointly funded by the World Bank and the Chinese Government from 1995 to 2001. The SWPRP aimed at reducing poverty and increasing living standards for the absolute poor in southwest China. The treatment effects are measured by the changes in 21 indicators at the village level. The dataset for this research includes 327 project villages and 3887 non-project villages in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Rigorous econometric methods are employed to remove selection bias. A probit model is established to investigate the selection rule of the project villages. In addition to the control function approach, different methods of propensity score matching such as nearest neighbor, caliper or radius, and kernel-based matching, are used to estimate the treatment effects, including the average treatment effect, average treatment effect on the treated, and average treatment effect on the untreated.

The evidence from the treatment effect estimations shows that the SWPRP achieved its overall objective but not necessarily all specific objectives. The evidence supports a statement of significant impacts on farming, off-farm employment, and infrastructure by the project investments, while there is no strong evidence to support a conclusion of significant impacts on primary education and rural healthcare services. The poverty rate in the project villages was reduced by about 3.0-3.3 percent and net income increased by about 24-26 Yuan. Further investigation of the specific treatment effects on individual villages expose that the treatment effects vary with land resources in the villages. Lastly, the project was successful in targeting the poorer villages but not necessarily the poorest.

This research also reveals some findings of practical relevance for social program design. The approach of integrated policies proves to be effective in large-scale poverty reduction. However, designers should be aware that households may trade off one activity against another to maximize their utility rather than simply follow the whole package of integrated activities. In addition, the minimization of operational costs of the project agents should not be detrimental to the effectiveness of the project.

Developmental state and agriculture for development: Lessons for Ghana from East Asia

Dadzie, Richard B. 154 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Missouri: University of Missouri - Kansas City; 2011. AAT 3456118.

Comparative studies between Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia have shown divergence in economic growth and development. This study argues that in order for Sub-Saharan Africa to make progress in its quest for development, countries in the region must carefully and seriously study the development experiences of late-industrializing economies in East Asia. They must adopt where possible those practices that led to their structural transformation and economic success. The case of Ghana and Malaysia provide an excellent example of two nations similar at independence but different today. In explaining their divergence, economy-wide and sector-specific comparisons are made to highlight their experiences and formulate lessons for Ghana's development. Fieldwork in Central Region, Ghana and Sarawak, Malaysia is used as a backdrop to discuss agricultural transformation and rural development. In explaining the divergent development experiences of these two nations, the analytical toolset of heterodox development economists is extensively used. Concepts such as the developmental state, embedded autonomy and social legitimacy are used to highlight the role of the state in the process of economic change, and theories of modern money and institutional adjustment are discussed in relation to the creation of a Ghanaian developmental state.

Farmers' experiences with rearing pigs, goats and chickens to improve household nutrition and income in Kamuli, Uganda

Ampaire, Agatha. 109 pages; [M.S. dissertation]. United States – Iowa: Iowa State University; 2011. AAT 1494632.

A livestock development program was established in Kamuli district, in 2003, as a collaborative effort between Iowa State University and a Ugandan development organization, to improve the income and nutrition of rural farming households. Interviews were conducted with 113 farmers in the program, to assess the impact of the program. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Relationships between variables were confirmed using Chi square tests.

The farmer's objectives and resources dictated the choice of animal species and number of animals reared. Animal prices varied depending on the farmer's need for the money and what the buyer was willing to pay. Farmers rarely slaughtered their animals to eat; they more frequently consumed eggs and milk. Training and facilitation was of advantage to the farmers, but factors, such as the farmers' resources limited their progress. Men and women farmers sometimes experienced

the program differently because of factors such as inequality in education, access to information and time use differences.

Surface mining, land transactions and risk perceptions among small scale household farmers in Ghana: A socio-demographic perspective

Owusu-Ansah, Fred. 427 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – New York: State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry; 2011. AAT 3461461.

This study combined evidence from literature search, national-level data sources, survey, focus groups, interviews, and empirical findings (Trend Analysis, Simple Linear Regression and Correlation Analysis, with the use of SAS & SPSS software). The following research questions were addressed: (1) Is there trend relationship between mining and decline in crop production in Ghana? (2) Is mining threatening agriculture? (3) Is impoverishment among farmers within mining communities connected to surface mining? (4) How do farmers perceive or associate risk with surface mining practices? (5) Do socio-demographic factors matter in risk perceptions among farmers?

Using national-level data (1989 to 2007), agricultural growth through acreage expansion has not been seriously affected by expansion in area under mineral concession. Although trend relationship between area under mineral concession and decline in maize and cocoyam production is possible, there is no strong evidence to support the claim that mining is threatening crop production in Ghana. Therefore, the growing concern that mining is destroying agriculture can be described as a complex mix.

The claim that mining practices have worsened the livelihoods of small-scale farmers is a possibility. More than 80% cases of household farmers studied are likely to become more vulnerable to poverty. However, a combination of four principal factors - nature of land transactions; inadequate compensation; inability of farmers to invest in alternative livelihood enterprises, and disintegration of family structural dynamics are in operation.

Surface mining is perceived as having both positive and negative images in the minds of farmers. Depending on how the issue is presented and farmers' socio-demographic differences, either positive or negative image may dominate. Farmers are more likely to: link livelihood to the preservation of environmental resources; see mining as a threat to environmental resources, institutions, participatory processes, socio-cultural fiber of the community and a promoter of rural poverty. However, most farmers are likely to perceive mining as an agent of economic growth and rural development.

This research is proposing a " Sustainable Compensation & Livelihood Model " for consideration, which adopts three instruments - Cost Assessment Approach; Shareholder Approach; and Legislative Approach to sustainable livelihood, and is intended to promote policy dialogue among stakeholders.

The survival of peri-urban agrarian livelihoods in transitioning spaces of KwaZulu- Natal, South Africa

de Silva, Umsha. 135 pages; [M.A. dissertation].Canada: University of Ottawa (Canada); 2011. Publication Number: AAT MR79659.

South Africa's unique history of racial segregation and spatial dynamics severely undermined the role and tradition of small-scale agriculture among the black population. In order to redress past injustices, the post-apartheid government aims to re-invigorate agriculture to improve food security and economic growth, with a particular focus on establishing a class of black small-scale farmers. However, changing livelihood trajectories, threats to sustainable agriculture, and the diverse and complex rural-urban interface challenge the sustainable role that small-scale farming can assume in peri-urban areas. On these premises, the study offers a critical reflection of the future of small-scale farming in one peri-urban community located in one of South Africa's former homelands - KwaZulu-Natal (KZN).

The overarching objectives of this thesis are: 1) to draw upon the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework to gather data in order to explore livelihood strategies of small-scale, peri-urban farmers in Umzinyathi, KZN; 2) to analyze the effects of rural-urban transitions on small-scale farmers in Umzinyathi, KZN using a political ecology framework, with an emphasis on marginalization and degradation; and 3) to reflect upon the current policy framework that has been drafted for small-scale farming in South Africa.

Qualitative and quantitative methods were used for data collection and analysis. Participatory research methods included: (a) the collection of semi-structured interviews and surveys from forty small-scale farmers, focusing on the respondent's livelihood; and (b) semi-structured, key informant interviews with two academics, three development practitioners, a tribal chief, and two commercial farmers. The fieldwork was conducted over three months between October and December 2010.

The results of the survey suggested the following trends: tribal authorities play a large role in allocating land to resource-poor households, but land tenure is weak, and access to land is still limited to some; livelihood diversification is low and households assume their income primarily from social assistance and farming activities; farmers' access to markets is restricted due to infrastructural and production barriers; and the climate conditions are perceived to have changed the

nature of farming, but adaption strategies to climate shocks and stresses are limited. Through comparing field data with the literature on agriculture and livelihoods in South Africa, the study identified several trends, which could either foster agricultural livelihoods in peri-urban areas, and which could not.

It was found that rural to urban transitions could explain themes of marginalization and degradation in the research site related to the degradation of the natural resource base, the disintegration and marginalization of tribal authorities, and the marginalization of livelihoods through diminishing numbers of economic opportunities. This in turn had tremendous impacts on the feasibility of small-scale farming to improve food security, peri-urban livelihoods, and inspire economic development.

The study believes that South Africa's current policy framework for small-scale farming can make vital contributions to both the farm and non-farm sectors of the peri-urban economy, but that its uptake can improve with additional communication, monitoring, and training. To this extent, the study suggests the implementation of farming associations to act as intermediary bodies between the state, agricultural cooperatives and individual farmers. The study also suggests areas in the peri-urban non-farm sector that could thrive in an agriculturally-driven economy.

Cost-savings motivation, new technology adoption, regulatory compliance burden, and adoption of online banking services for Russian credit unions
Tatarintsev, Evgeniy. 92 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Minnesota: Capella University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3458033.

This dissertation examines the relationship of cost savings motivation, capability to adopt new technology, regulatory compliance burden, and the rate of adoption of online banking services for credit unions in Russia. Information about these credit unions was obtained from the Russian Credit Union League, which is a member of World Council of Credit Unions, headquartered in Washington, DC. A survey was administered to managers who work for Russian credit unions. Correlational data analysis was performed on items that measure cost savings motivation, capability to adopt new technology, regulatory compliance burden, and the rate of adoption of online banking services. Research Question 1 examined the relationship between cost savings motivation and the rate of adoption of online banking services. The corresponding hypothesis was that credit unions with greater cost savings motivation have a higher rate of adoption of online banking services. The correlational analysis showed that cost savings motivation was positively correlated with the rate of adoption of online banking services. Research Question 2 examined the relationship between capability to adopt new technology and the

rate of adoption of online banking services. The corresponding hypothesis was that credit unions with greater capability to adopt new technology have a higher rate of adoption of online banking services. The correlational analysis showed that capability to adopt new technology has positive correlation with the rate of adoption of online banking services. Research Question 3 examined the relationship between regulatory compliance burden and the rate of adoption of online banking services. The corresponding hypothesis was that credit unions that perceive high regulatory compliance burden have a lower rate of adoption of online banking services. The correlational analysis showed that perceived regulatory compliance burden was positively correlated with the rate of adoption of online banking services. In other words, those who believe that online banking has lower compliance burden have a higher rate of adoption. The research results suggest that if credit unions have greater cost savings motivation and greater capability to adopt new technology, and if they perceive low regulatory compliance burden, then they have a higher rate of adoption of online banking services.

Drivers of member advocacy and detraction in credit unions: Key contributors to net promoter scores

Goldman, Neil. 156 pages; [Ed.D. dissertation]. United States – California: Pepperdine University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3444674.

Credit unions today face an uncertain future, with their very survival in question. This study sought to understand where credit union leaders should focus to foster growth and create lasting organizational success.

Treacy and Wiersema (1995) proffer that the key to growth rests in "customer intimacy" and as others suggest, the creation of an exceptional customer experience (McConnell & Huba, 2003; Pine & Gilmore, 1999). As customers for credit unions are called members, an exceptional "member experience" is thus necessary.

Customer (or member) satisfaction levels indicate the member experience. Member loyalty levels also reflect the member experience. This study sought to uncover the drivers of credit union member advocacy and detraction, and explored the existence of age, income, or gender differences. The study used the seminal SERVQUAL model (Zeithaml, Parasuraman, & Berry, 1990) of customer satisfaction as a framework for understanding the drivers of high member loyalty. Specifically, responses to the Net Promoter Score's "likelihood to recommend" question (Reichheld, 2006a) were coded, first independently, and then to the five distinct dimensions of service quality: Tangibles, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance and Empathy (Zeithaml et. al, 1990). In so doing, this study led to greater understanding of what contributes to high and low NPS scores, and thus

what credit union leaders can do to create an excellent member experience, and high loyalty, among current members.

The study also led to a new, more complete banking-specific account holder experience assessment model, "SQ+", and five additional dimensions: Convenience, Rates, Fees, Products/Services and Relationship. Two key research tools were also developed: A new SQ+ questionnaire for use in assessing the member/customer experience, and a codebook to use in interpreting and utilizing NPS "likelihood to recommend" comments.

Essays on Leadership Selection and Public Goods Provision in Self-Help Organizations

Grossman, Guy. 269 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – New York: Columbia University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3456773.

This dissertation examines the relationship between leadership selection and public goods provision in self-help organizations. Leadership selection is defined as the rules for selecting leaders, as well as the factors that determine the quality of the leadership class. Self-help organizations are defined as relatively small-size voluntary groups that are created to provide goods and services to members and that select their leader via democratic procedures. Examples include micro-lending and micro-insurance groups, common-pool resource groups, women and artisan cooperatives and farmer associations.

The dissertation focuses on Uganda's recent largest development project: the Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (APEP). USAID funded, APEP's stated goal is to expand rural economic opportunities by supporting the transition of smallholder producers into commercial farming. During the project's lifespan (2005-2009), APEP helped about 60,000 small-scale producers to organize into over 200 farmer associations (i.e. cooperatives). Importantly, the success of these farmer associations in overcoming social dilemmas and in providing goods and services to their members, varied tremendously. Why are some groups more successful than others in overcoming the social dilemmas inherent in public goods production? To explain this variation, the dissertation uses a range of disciplinary perspectives - drawn mainly from political science, economics, social psychology and sociology - as well as a diverse set of methodological tools.

The structure, conduct, and performance of agricultural Market Information Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

Kizito, Andrew Muganga. 412 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Michigan: Michigan State University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3454987.

This dissertation addresses three sets of questions: (1) what evidence is there that supports the premises that second-generation agricultural Market Information System (MIS) models are likely to meet user needs and become financially sustainable relative to first-generation models? (2) How have different MIS models tried to address the generic design issues of any MIS and what are the relative advantages of different models of MIS in addressing those challenges? (3) What factors affect the reception of improved agricultural market information among smallholder farmers in Mozambique; and how does reception of improved agricultural market information affect their marketing behavior?

The key findings are that: (1) there is great heterogeneity among MIS in terms of their structure and conduct design issues. (2) Whether or not an MIS is government-based explains very little in terms of its performance. What matters is the: (a) mandate, (b) financial and managerial autonomy, (c) information and communication technology (ICT) used in transmission and diffusion, (d) funding strategy, (e) quality control methods, and (f) feedback methods of the MIS. (3) All MIS types still heavily depend on donor funding for sustainability. (4) Private MIS do not engage in policy analysis compared to government supported MIS, but could provide data to units that do. (6) There is a rapidly evolving market environment in terms of (a) market actors, and (b) ICT availability and usage. (5) It is difficult to analyze the key design issues of MIS independent of overall environment in which they operate.

From the econometric analysis of a two-year panel household data set for four provinces in Mozambique, the study finds that the generic factors that influence the reception of improved agricultural market information include involvement in growing of marketable staples, access to alternative information and communication technologies, and access to markets and extension services. The specific factors include: growing maize, large and small groundnuts; owning a radio; presence of a cell phone network in the village; proximity to a road with public transport; membership to farmer association; access to extension services; level of education; the agro ecological zone of households; and distance to village administrative post. Holding other factors constant, reception of market information increases farmers' probability of market participation by 34 percent.

The average price difference per kilogram of maize sold between households with and without information (also referred to as an information premium or information rent) is 12%. This premium translates into an average income gain of 0.34 meticaïs per kilogram of maize sold, or an income gain of \$3.13 (about 1% of average gross and net total household income in 2005 meticaïs) for an average household that sells about 214 kilograms of maize in the main growing season per year. The average marginal population gain in income by an estimated a quarter million households that received information and sold maize is estimated to be

\$766,748 in the main marketing season per year. These gains are 6 times more than the operational costs in MIS of \$130,000 in 2002. The cost-benefit analysis shows that less-commercialized farmers are less likely to afford the use of information from MIS than are more-commercialized farmers.

Strategies for limited and deficit irrigation to maximize on-farm profit potential in Colorado's south platte basin

Smith, Stephen W. 183 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Colorado: Colorado State University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3454640.

The purpose of this dissertation is to demonstrate through a simulation and optimization model that successful farming operations can be continued while agricultural producers benefit financially from a proportional parting-off of the water right. . Further, this dissertation will describe what an implementation embodiment of the technology described looks like operationally and as a practical matter.

This dissertation presents factors associated with the use of, and change in, water rights that may be considered by farmers interested in evaluating a package of changed farming practices intended to optimize future revenues. A future low-risk revenue stream may be brought into the farm's revenue forecast by virtue of the lease of a proportional amount of water to a municipal, industrial, or environmental user. Optimization algorithms are used to evaluate a farmer-considered package of changed practices which may include: deficit irrigation, new crops, dryland crops, permanent or rotational fallowing of fields, and crop rotations. Some farmers will also consider upgraded irrigation systems as an aspect of implementing these practices. The farmer-driven optimization may include any or all of these changed practices as well as continued full irrigation of crops. To evaluate and compare multiple practices as a cohesive package and in the context of the option to lease water is new. The simulation and optimization model output assists in comparing historic practices and net returns with future practices and net returns which would include a revenue stream associated with a lease or sale of a proportion of the farmer's CU water. The actual comparison between alternatives is accomplished by evaluating the change in net returns between historic practices and modeled future practices. The model utilizes crop water production functions, some of which are very newly researched and reported, to forecast crop yields based on deficit irrigation practices. The model can utilize up to 20 fields and 18 combinations of irrigation practices and crops. Up to seven deficit irrigation crops per field can be evaluated within a simulation and optimization scenario.

Recommendations are made for future research and software development that will incorporate the optimization routines into a larger collection of data inputs and

a database intended to help farmers, ditch companies, or cooperative farmer groups manage their consumptive use water under a change decree and aggregated changed practices.

It is recommended that the ultimate and fully implemented system include: (1) A package of technologies under one umbrella software program. (2) A decision support system (DSS). (3) A farm operations simulation. (4) An optimization program for year-to-year evaluation of alternative farm operational strategies and potential for changed practices. (5) A tool for evaluating a proportional parting off of consumptive use water. (6) A means of developing and monitoring an annual water use budget. (7) A database for cataloging historical and current operations of substitute water supply plans or change case decrees. (8) A monitoring and reporting system for documenting the implementation strategy. (9) A planning tool used year after year to plan pending annual operations against a farm or farmer cooperative total entity water budget.

Primary issues and pitfalls to implementing the process and strategies described are framed by these questions: (1) Can municipal interests view a long term lease as a viable part of their water portfolio and their projected safe yield at a future date? (2) Can farmers accept the perceived dramatic changes to their farming operations? (3) Can the science underpin the strategy sufficiently to satisfy change case objectors and the Colorado Water Court? (4) Can water be physically transferred based on existing water diversion and delivery infrastructure or is new infrastructure required in some cases? (5) Will farmers be interested in and accepting of a long term lease and might they also consider a buyout of the lease at a discounted net present worth? (6) Do existing State of Colorado statutes support the type of water transfer that is described? (Abstract shortened by UMI.)

Implications of incentive-based conservation programs for governance, gender and collective action in the Uluguru Mountains, Tanzania

Vardhan, Mamta. 140 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Michigan: Michigan State University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3468493.

Payment for environmental services (PES) is often promoted as a win-win option for conservation and development, but its potential social impacts remain underexplored. PES literature has not focused much attention to the important issues of institutions and governance underlying PES projects, the potential of PES to alter existing rights to resources which may work against marginal groups, and the possible perverse impacts of introducing money on collective action for provision of ecosystem services. This research explores these issues in the context of tree planting programs and forest management arrangements in the Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania. The first essay, "Forest Governance in Participatory Forest

Management Regimes in Tanzania: Lessons for REDD," indicates that although participatory forestry programs appear to offer a good institutional base for launching REDD, in practice they are plagued by poor governance, corrupt practices and low accountability. Participatory forestry institutions in Tanzania need to be strengthened in order to ensure effective and equitable implementation of REDD. The second essay, "Payments for Environmental Services and Women's Land Rights in the Uluguru Mountains, Tanzania," presents a case where men in the study villages have used tree planting projects to claim women's lands. The paper cautions that contestations over land may become pronounced if PES projects continue to ignore the social relationships underlying the production of ecosystem services. The third essay, "Pro-Social Behavior and Incentives: Experimental Evidence from the Uluguru Mountains, Tanzania," explores the impact of payments on collective action through village-level field experiments. It shows that participation in communal tasks is high irrespective of the incentive; high payments can increase participation but low payments can reduce participation relative to when no payment is made.

Institutional logics, collective actions and development of new technologies
Jin, Byungchae. 173 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Maryland: University of Maryland, College Park; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3461165.

Technology development is an outcome of collective social processes among actors in different institutional fields. In the literature on technology development, there have been long debates regarding whether technology shapes social structure and order, or whether social forces determine the developmental trajectories of technology. From a series of studies, I seek to understand the social dynamics of technology development in order to address theoretical tensions, both theoretically and empirically. Three separate yet related studies together provide a theoretical model and relevant empirical evidence for the linkages among actors, institutional logics and technologies.

In Chapter 1 I first attempt to theorize about how actors, including scientists, engineers and technology users, collectively shape technological evolution in the general technology context. Combining the two perspectives—institutional logics and collective actions, I develop a theoretical model that addresses how scientists and engineers, faced with multiple institutional logics, strategically respond to the multiple institutional logics, and how the different formation of institutional logics can systematically lead to different types of technology development. In the theoretical model, I discuss four distinctive social mechanisms of framing institutional logics— replacing, patching, sequencing, and reinforcing , and the

relationships between the social mechanisms and the types of technology development.

In Chapter 2, building upon the theoretical model proposed in Chapter 1, I empirically investigate the emergence and decline of electric and hybrid drives in the community of electric vehicle researchers from 1969-2009. Combining the perspectives of institutional logics and social movements, I argue that an institutional logic is a product of collective social processes among actors in different institutional fields, and that established logics play an integral role in shaping the differential development of new technology. Empirical findings suggest that environmental protests and economic recessions systematically influence technologists' incorporation of two institutional logics (environmentalism vs. industrialism), and that social cohesion among actors within each institutional logic tends to shape differential developmental trajectories of electric and hybrid drives in the community of electric vehicle researchers.

In Chapter 3 I further explore the process through which actors respond to multiple and conflicting institutional logics, suggesting that actors can purposefully create new concepts and meanings, modify meanings of institutional logics, or reinforce existing meanings. While existing institutional work has suggested and empirically demonstrated that institutional logics shape cognitive and behavioral patterns of actors, it still remains unanswered as to how actors can mobilize existing and new logics—differential decoupling processes. To trace the processes of constructing meanings of institutional logics, I conducted an inductive study by employing keyword-based, computer-aided text analysis of research proceedings published by the international Electric Vehicle Symposium in 1969 and in 1994. From the analysis, I identify four social mechanisms of logic construction: clarifying, patching, expanding and reinforcing. Moreover, empirical findings suggest that social mechanisms of patching, expanding and reinforcing are closely related to the emergence of hybrid drive.

Intentionality, responsibility, and social grouphood

Webb, Sherisse. 170 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. Canada: Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada); 2011. Publication Number: AAT NR75403.

This dissertation examines the theories of collectivity or social grouphood presupposed by accounts of collective intentionality, collective action and collective moral responsibility. I consider the intentionalist theories of social grouphood proposed by John Searle and Margaret Gilbert, Larry May's conceptual account of social grouphood, and Paul Sheehy's realist conception of social grouphood. All three approaches are found to be problematic. The theories of Searle and Gilbert fail to adequately explain the causal relationship between

collectives and their members, the heterogeneity of social groups and non-voluntary social groups; May's theory is problematic insofar as it relies on sameness among individual group members; and, as a consequence of his failure to recognize that the causal powers of a social group are mediated by, and thereby depend upon, the perspectives of individuals, Sheehy's account is unable to explain non-voluntary social groups. A conception of social grouphood that is able to avoid these shortcomings is identified. However, it raises doubts about the possibility of collective agency, something that theories of collective action and collective moral responsibility tend to assume. Consequently, I explore whether collective action and collective moral responsibility require collective agency. Theories of collective action and collective moral responsibility that do not require collective agency have been proposed. These proposals conceive of collective action and collective moral responsibility as joint action and joint moral responsibility, respectively. I recommend a dialogical account of joint action that is consistent with the notion that only individuals can be agents and supports ascriptions of joint moral responsibility.

Liquid Resistance: Water, Infrastructure & the Politics of Contraction in New Orleans

Kirkpatrick, Lucas Owen. 262 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – California: University of California, Davis; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3456837.

Five years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is a smaller, whiter, and wealthier city. This can be traced to the process of strategic urban contraction. Initially, this took the form of a "shrinking the footprint" strategy, which hinged on turning the lowest-lying areas of the city into marshes, parks, and other "greenspace." The wholesale eradication of entire neighborhoods would be implemented through the mass dispossession of homes and the targeted contraction of public works, urban infrastructure, and municipal services. In neighborhoods slated for elimination, place-based collective action shared a common objective—saving their communities from urban contraction "by fiat." These efforts were successful; high levels of socio-political mobilization frustrated municipal efforts to shrink the city's footprint.

Yet strategic contraction continues to be a threat to marginalized neighborhoods. Over time, the strategy has evolved into a form of contraction "by attrition" that is implemented through the geographically targeted withdrawal of funding and maintenance for public works. In this scenario, specific neighborhoods are slowly suffocated as individual homes and blocks are threatened by the arterial blockage of utilities, infrastructure networks, and public services. In response,

these communities have launched an organized movement to defend their homes and neighborhoods from both direct and indirect methods of urban contraction.

The Fordist-Keynesian epoch produced a political and geographical terrain in which urban infrastructure was relegated to the underground and hidden—the "forgotten, the background, the frozen in place." However, while infrastructure once provided the un-problematic backdrop for urban development politics, they are increasingly becoming the very substance of such politics. In the context of urban contraction, urban infrastructure becomes the site of collective struggle and contestation, and equity becomes its substance. In New Orleans, tensions related to collective consumption—particularly the production and distribution of "hard" and "soft" infrastructures—contribute to an urban environment that is a virtual tinderbox of potential resistance, contestation, and mobilization. While contraction generates some admittedly knotty obstacles for those seeking to organize collective action, it also creates new opportunities for community mobilization and grassroots democratic engagement.

The Hewitt Creek Watershed Group: A study of mechanisms that led to the adoption of farm management practices to improve water quality

McGuire, Jean Marie. 92 pages; [M.S. dissertation]. United States – Iowa: Iowa State University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 1494781.

As the world population grows, the need for food, fiber, and fuel will increase. Farmers are in a unique position to provide these resources and serve as the stewards of the fresh water on the planet. Currently U.S. farmers do not uniformly understand the role their production practices have on water quality and therefore are not taking action to address the impacts their practices have had, and continue to have, on surface water and groundwater. Hewitt Creek Watershed farmers in northeast Iowa have demonstrated that it is possible for farmers to come together within a watershed to address water and soil quality issues, while maintaining farm operation profitability. Through the use of two feedback mechanisms, identity change and performance-based management tools, these farmers came to understand the environmental impacts of their farm practices on the surface and groundwater in their watershed. They adopted practices that allow them to remain profitable in addition to protecting the soil and water on their land. In the process, these farmers modified not only their farm management practices they also changed their attitudes and beliefs about their role in the improving and protecting the quality of the water that flows from their farms into the Mississippi River watershed.

The quest for governance: Decision making on a groundwater commons in India's Drylands

Knuffman, Lekha A. 120 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Michigan: University of Michigan; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3458871.

Natural resource management in much of the global south is characterized as a shift to governance involving hybrid engagements between neo-liberal states, communities and markets based incentives. Agriculture, a large part of rural livelihoods, turns out to be the largest user of groundwater, an increasingly declining common pool resource (CPR). India is the world's largest groundwater extractor for combined agriculture and drinking purposes and offers a challenging arena for groundwater governance. Recent trends in decentralization in the form of community based natural resource management (CBNRM) are slowly making their way to groundwater regulation. This work uses a CPR experiment replicated with students from all disciplines at the University of Michigan (n=50), The University of Delhi (n=75) and residents of six villages in three different states of India (n=360) to study the differences in extraction decisions across locations and livelihoods in a groundwater setting and test theories of collective action involving the concept of social capital. Post experiment surveys and interviews were also conducted to augment and explain the experimental results.

The main findings are that student groups differ from rural participants in extraction choices but only in treatments that involve voting for a costly external enforcement of rule adherence on the commons. While the two student groups were not statistically different in extraction levels across all treatments, Indian students differed from Indian rural participants in the experimental treatment involving a costly external monitor. The variance in decision making by subject group is attributed to differences in preferences, beliefs and experience. Evidence for this is found in the post game interviews and surveys conducted with each group. This furthers the findings of recent work on the role of social framing in decision making. Additionally, social capital was marginally significant in lowering extraction levels but institutions were more so.

Broadly, my findings indicate that decentralization policy for groundwater will be a negotiated process that needs to consider the tensions within populations. Also, there is a role for the state as an external actor in CBNRM projects since farmers seemed to express a need for fuller citizenship by engaging with the state.

Transgenic Crops, Environmental Contamination, and Peasant (De)Mobilization in Argentina

Lapegna, Pablo. 259 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – New York: State University of New York at Stony Brook; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3458222.

Based on archival research and ethnographic fieldwork in northeast Argentine province of Formosa, this dissertation examines the dynamics of popular mobilization and demobilization in cases of environmental contamination. Drawing on the sweeping advance of genetically modified (GM) soybeans in Argentina I reconstruct and compare different responses of peasants to agrochemical exposures to address the following question: Why, when facing an environmental onslaught, do people from the same community sometimes react by organizing transgressive protests while at other times failing to engage in disruptive action? The analytic goal is to explain the ways in which people think, feel, and act (or fail to act) when affected by environmental problems. I argue that this variation in responses to environmental damage can be accounted for by observing three dimensions: first, the authorities' denial/acknowledgement of the environmental damage; second, activists' participation in political networks; and third, people's views on environmental damage and the effectiveness of collective action. The dissertation's Introduction elaborates the overarching argument, presents definitions of key concepts, and details the methods used for the analyses. Chapter Two discusses the relevant literatures relating to social movements, patronage politics, and biotechnology in agriculture. Chapter Three provides the background on neoliberalization processes in Argentina, the expansion of GM crops, the history of Formosa and its peasant organizations, and the communities of Monte Azul, Moreno, and Bermellon. Chapter Four presents a diachronic comparison of transgressive mobilization and demobilization in Monte Azul. Chapter Five presents a synchronic comparison of transgressive mobilization in Moreno and contained mobilization in Bermellon. Chapter Six presents an ethnography of the everyday life of a peasant organization showing the interconnections between social movements and patronage politics, two political phenomena which are usually understood as distinct and opposing spheres. The Conclusion summarizes the dissertation's main arguments and findings, and proposes avenues for future research.

African American women entrepreneurs' experience obtaining financial capital for business start-up

Gaines, Ola M. 228 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – Minnesota: Capella University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3454730.

This qualitative research study used in-depth interviews with 20 African American women small-business owners from a wide range of sectors, education levels, and business and entrepreneur ages to understand African American women entrepreneurs' experiences in attempting to procure financial capital for their small-business start-up phase, including their experiences and perspectives on the use of social capital and internal and external financing to obtain capital, and their challenges, advantages, and learnings in procuring this crucial resource. Embarking from the viewpoint that African American entrepreneurs are typically disadvantaged and trail all other groups of entrepreneurs, the study design was informed by an integration of the literatures of small businesses/entrepreneurship, education, leadership, and economics. The study's findings revealed that these African American women entrepreneurs attempted to obtain bank and agency loans and the process progressed to using internal funds. They were motivated to obtain external capital, but in turn attempted to alleviate related challenges and use internal (personal and/or families' and friends') funds. Gender, ethnicity, and work/life balance constraints compounded their experiences. These African American women entrepreneurs placed strong emphasis on the support of self-empowerment and spirituality to cope with and manage the impact of these challenges. This study provides a detailed focus on the challenges, perspectives, and experiences as African American women start their own businesses. Further study in this area could contribute to a domain of more prepared and empowered women and minority entrepreneurs. Future studies may also expand upon recommendations provided to banks and their loan officers, agency loan administrators, and policy makers to enhance their efforts to help women and minority entrepreneurs.

Mapping the economic contribution of women entrepreneurs

Court, Kathie L. 150 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – California: Fielding Graduate University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3465616.

The purpose of this research was to discover and describe aspects of one group of women entrepreneurs, their economic contribution, and how their social networks may have influenced that contribution. The research participants were women who had graduated from a Microenterprise Assistance Program (MEP). There was no differentiation among women by age, race, or ethnicity.

This study was designed using an interdisciplinary approach. The theoretical landscape that underpins this research includes economic geography, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurship. This exploratory data analysis generated questions for future research. This research provided a geographic representation

of the dispersion and volume of the self-reported business expenses of women entrepreneurs located in one geographic area.

These investigations revealed that this group of women entrepreneurs had a high business survival rate. Those women entrepreneurs whose businesses were in the second through seventh years of operation engaged in additional employment. Of those who initially established their businesses as nonemployer, many had expanded to employer businesses at the time of the research. These women were not influenced by their social networks when they selected suppliers for their businesses. In addition, this research developed and examined the viability of an assessment tool that maps the business payments made by entrepreneurs.

Poor relief and the negotiation of local order in early modern Japan

Ehlers, Maren Annika. 407 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation]. United States – New Jersey: Princeton University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3463306.

This dissertation examines poor relief in the institutional context of the early modern Japanese state. It argues that poor relief during the Tokugawa period (1603-1867) was shaped by a style of government that worked through ties of duty and privilege between the warrior authorities and the autonomous status groups under their control, such as neighborhoods of townspeople, peasant villages, professional guilds, and religious orders. Rather than discussing government policies or the initiatives of subjects in isolation, this study explores the links between the two through a local case study of Ono domain in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It relies primarily on the journals of the castle town elders and a variety of other administrative documents.

The government of Ono, a small domain in Echizen province, took an active interest in poor relief, both to prevent unrest and because the moral economy dictated that rulers protect their people during times of distress. However, implementation depended to a large extent on the services and self-governing capacities of status groups. Two of the chapters concentrate on individual status groups whose existence hinged on the fact that their members were recipients of relief: the beggar (*hinin*) guild, and the guilds of male and female blind professionals (*zat o* and *goze*). These associations enjoyed official begging rights, but were also expected to control and relieve beggars and other people who were excluded from mutual help within town and village communities.

The remaining two chapters each center on a broader category of welfare (beggar relief and famine relief) to show how the status order was able to tie together disparate mechanisms and actors of relief. Many formal relief schemes, such as rice gruel kitchens for beggars, famine relief for townspeople, and the beggar hospice, were collaborative efforts of the domain government, mendicant

guilds, and associations of wealthy commoners. The status-based model of poor relief remained relevant until the end of the early modern period, as Ono domain increasingly mobilized the charity of rich commoners and stepped up its reliance on the hinin guild as a vagrant police.

Assessment of risks and risk reducing strategies of small farm operators in Tennessee

Pasirayi, Simbarashe. 82 pages; [M.S. dissertation].United States – Tennessee: Tennessee State University; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 1497840.

Small farms represent an important segment of the agricultural sector and rural communities in the US. They account for 56 % of the total U.S. value of agricultural land and buildings, but account for 91 % of all U.S. farms and more than half of the land in farms. This trend holds true for the State of Tennessee where 93.2 % of the farmers had small scale operations in 2007. Nearly half of Tennessee's land area, or 11.8 million acres, is in farmland, and there are more than 91,000 farms in the state. Tennessee small farms generate more than \$8 billion annually and provide more than 10,000 jobs, making them one of the major contributors to State GDP. Small farmers, however, face a number of problems that continue to challenge their viability. Their most pressing concerns involve changes in government policies/regulations (institutional risk), decreases in crop yields or livestock output (production risk), and uncertainty in commodity prices (price risk). Thus, there is need to effectively manage risks that threaten small scale operators' viability. The purpose of the study was to examine small farmers' perceptions of risk, sources of risk and risk management practices. Data from randomly selected small farmers in Tennessee were collected and analyzed. Results revealed that despite a relatively diverse sample in terms of education, farm size, leverage ratio, and farm income, there was a considerable agreement on the relative importance of various sources of risk and alternative risk management practices followed by small scale farmers in Tennessee. The results of the study clearly points out the need to make a concerted effort by all working with small farmers to implement risk management strategies that will enhance small farmers' economic viability.

Cropping systems for groundwater security in India: Groundwater responses to agricultural land management

Dourte, Daniel R. 204 pages; [Ph.D. dissertation].United States – Florida: University of Florida; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 3467618.

The total annual groundwater withdrawals in India (251 billion km³) are the highest of any nation. Depletion of groundwater resources is increasingly common in much of India, and farmers bear significant costs and greater vulnerability resulting from the loss or reduction of a reliable irrigation source. Three hypotheses were tested: (1) current rice cropland extent and management practices are depleting groundwater supplies, (2) tillage for water harvesting can significantly increase groundwater recharge in rainfed croplands, and (3) there are combinations of tillage, crop selection, and irrigation that are likely to increase groundwater recharge and reduce groundwater withdrawals. In order to test these hypotheses, there was the objective to evaluate improvements to the Green-Ampt infiltration routines of a hydrologic model, the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), through the addition of a dynamic surface storage depth used for tillage parameterization. Also, the final objective was to assess the social and economic impacts of alternative agricultural land management. SWAT was used for simulating the groundwater balance (recharge - irrigation pumping) of a 512 ha watershed to examine a variety of possible agricultural management options for groundwater sustainability. The best options for groundwater sustainability were evaluated based on predictions of groundwater recharge and withdrawals, evapotranspiration, and estimated household incomes. Reductions in rice cropland areas significantly improved the groundwater balance of the study area; water harvesting tillage simulated in all rainfed areas increased groundwater recharge by about 30 mm/year. Surface storage depth was shown to be the most important parameter for infiltration prediction in agricultural systems having 1.5 to 5.0 cm of surface storage capacity; surface storage depth was still important for infiltration prediction in systems having 0 to 1.0 cm of surface storage capacity. The vast extent of rice cropland areas and their highly negative groundwater balance suggest that irrigation from groundwater resources has caused much of the observed groundwater decline in India. Sensitivity analyses suggest that the addition of a variable surface storage depth head to the Green-Ampt infiltration routine can reduce uncertainty in infiltration simulations. Evidence of rainfall characterized by storms of greater intensity suggests that surface storage of runoff will become increasingly important for maintaining or improving current levels of groundwater recharge. Estimates of the economic impacts of selected management scenarios show promise that moderate management changes to improve the groundwater balance can still maintain or increase total watershed-scale income.

Impact of agricultural profitability, productivity and interest rate on farmland value for selected U.S. and Slovak states

Majerhoferova, Maria. 118 pages; [M.S. dissertation]. United States – Arkansas: University of Arkansas; 2011. Publication Number: AAT 1497583.

This thesis examines agricultural factors which may have impact on agricultural land values. Based on theory, three primary factors are considered to have an impact on land value: agricultural productivity, agricultural profitability and interest rate. The study is of two countries: the US, where data are from 16 states and Slovakia with 6 states. The ten-year period from 2000 until 2009 is used in the analysis. A capitalization model is used to estimate the relationship between agricultural productivity, profitability and interest rate and land value. Three types of agricultural land are used: cropland and its value in relationship with crops, grassland and its value in relationship with animals and agricultural land and its value in relationship with animals and crops. The estimated results indicate profitability, when proxied by revenue and expenses, and interest rate as significant variables in all US models. Profitability proxied by profit is an insignificant variable. Productivity is significant only in the US crop models. Results from the Slovak models indicate the interest rate as the only significant variable. Unfortunately, the collection of land value data in Slovakia is not very functional, which can be seen in huge differences in values between years and very high values in some states, such that the validity of the data is questionable.

Mediating the interface between the suburban-agricultural boundary zone

Terrett, Anni. 66 pages; [M.Arch. dissertation].Canada: Dalhousie University (Canada); 2011. Publication Number: AAT MR68103.

This thesis investigates the condition of edge, at the boundary between agricultural and suburban lands, in the suburban city of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. Surrey is an area where development is expanding and encroaching on fertile agricultural land. In addressing this interface between the growing city and the agricultural lands, both the physical and perceived boundaries were used to develop a new strategy. The program is an agriculture park whose infrastructure and architecture acts as mediation between the suburban and agricultural boundary. By measuring, documenting and observing different edges, durations and flows, a site, infrastructure and architecture is developed that not only responds to the existing condition but cultivates cross-pollination of the zone between the suburban and agricultural. This zone is currently being appropriated by the surrounding suburban area. This new interface is revealed visually and physically through the various park amenities and its infrastructure links the growing suburban community with the agricultural farmland and vice versa.

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