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Food Policy

Volume 20, Issue 3, June 1995, Pages 187-202

Paper

Agricultural commercialization: impacts on income and nutrition and implications for policy

Joachim von Braun

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0306-9192\(95\)00013-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0306-9192(95)00013-5)

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Abstract

Agricultural technology and commercialization are complementary stimulators of the rural economic growth process. Specialization and commercialization of farming households within a more diversified economy is part of the development process. But there are concerns that the process by-passes the poor. This article discusses the evidence on poverty and nutritional impacts of agricultural commercialization and examines how policies can affect the outcome of the commercialization process. Principle driving forces of the commercialization process include a conducive macroeconomic environment, non-distortive trade policies, and infrastructure development, as well as a legal and contractual environment in which farmers and processors may operate efficiently. Policies related to these driving forces will very much

influence the nature and speed of the agricultural commercialization process. These in turn will largely determine the impacts of the process on farm household income and nutritional status.



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Keywords

agricultural commercialization; income; nutrition

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