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JOURNAL OF RURAL COOPERATION

Vol. 36

No. 2

2008

The Center for Agricultural Economic Research
המרכז למחקר בכלכלה חקלאית

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY MAGNES PRESS, JERUSALEM

CURRENT INFORMATION DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

1. ProQuest Digital Dissertations

Role of social capital in natural resource conservation: A case study of Cat Tien National Park in Vietnam

Publication Number AAT 3281574

Nguyen, Thuy Ngoc, Ph.D., University of Florida, 2007, 158 pages; Advisor: Alavalapati, Janaki R. R.

Abstract (Summary)

The Cat Tien National Park (CTNP) is one of the last remaining lowland jungles in Vietnam, which possesses unique biodiversity including the last surviving population of the Vietnamese Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*). People inhabiting in and around the CTNP belong to diverse ethnic groups with different histories, administrative systems, and land use strategies. One of the World Bank's projects entitled "Forest Protection and Rural Development Project (FPRDP)," is being implemented in the buffer zone of CTNP with a dual objective of sustaining the CTNP and improving the livelihoods of local inhabitants. However, conservation and management of CTNP, a typical public or collective good, is not a trivial task. Drawing from the literature on public goods and collective action, this study explores the role of social capital on households' conservation attitude and participation in conservation programs. More specifically, this study explores the relationships among households' socio-demographic variables, social capital, conservation attitude, and participation in the FPRDP for those inhabiting in and around the bufferzone of the CTNP.

Data from 270 households representing nine villages were collected, using a structured questionnaire and a face-to-face interview method, to achieve the study objective. A three level stratified random sampling approach was followed to account for spatial and ethnic diversity of households living around the park. Factor analysis was employed to identify eight social capital components and four conservation attitude components and the identified components were used to construct social capital and conservation attitude indices. Multivariate regression

techniques were used to determine the effect of social capital and other socio-demographic variables on household attitudes toward conservation of CTNP. Logistic regression models were used to determine the effect of social capital, demographic variables, and conservation attitude on household's participation in the FPRDP.

Results suggest that education, social cohesion, familiarity, and social integration have positive and significant impacts on households perceived benefit of conservation. Households that scored high on voluntary cooperation and social integration variables tend to perceive less direct use benefits from the park. Households with higher social commitment and community support indices feel more secure about forestland ownership. Results also show that land tenure security can improve participation in conservation activities. Important implications of this study include (1) a policy or program to increase social capital in general with emphasis on efforts to enhance social networks among households in and around CTNP; and (2) government should create a land tenure regime that better encourages households to participate in conservation activities.

Cooperatives and the creation of social capital: The case of caring home services

Publication Number AAT 3294049

Majee, Wilson, Ph.D., The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2007, 220 pages;
Advisor: Hoyt, Ann.

Abstract (Summary)

Huge resources have been channeled towards improving the social and economic well-being of people living in resource limited communities. Millions of people in rural and urban areas, in both developed and developing countries, continue to live in poverty with no lasting solution in sight. Although some development policies have been successful in changing the physical environment of communities, they have been less successful in benefiting the poor who neither own assets nor participate in community activities. This study argues that an alternative solution to fighting poverty lies in the involvement of the poor themselves in economic activities in their communities through organizing locally owned cooperative businesses. The study demonstrates how cooperatives expand the social capital asset base of the poor which can be combined with financial, human and physical capital to help them participate in developmental decisions affecting their welfare.

Through an interpretive case study analysis of a worker-owned cooperative, this research explores how social capital is created in the workplace. Two major

observations are made. First, regular contacts during training, task oriented committees, general membership meetings, and social events, generate shared understanding, trust and reciprocity among worker-owners and between them, their clients and professionals. This leads to increased self confidence, employability and optimism, which in turn, increases participation in group activities. Second, interaction with professionals and other workers in the home care industry during conferences and training facilitates the creation of bridging and linking social capital. This leads to more confidence in business and community activities which, in turn, yields individual and group socio-economic gains through increased productivity, better quality services, better wages and negotiation skills.

Expanding the focus of water management: An investigation of cooperative irrigation in Sacaba (Cochabamba), Bolivia

Publication Number AAT 3246950

Holben, Symantha A., Ph.D., The Catholic University of America, 2007, 222 pages; Advisor: Guillet, David W.

Abstract (Summary)

In the past decade, approaches to the management of water within Latin American policy-making circles have begun to change, especially in countries with significant development needs and external debt. At the same time, however, development budgets are being reduced and the high financial and environmental costs of large-scale infrastructure projects are increasingly criticized. As a result, many Latin American governments now look for new ways to restructure management of natural resources to enhance efficiency and to lower their costs. Water management, a critical issue in the Andean countries where most agricultural production is irrigation dependent and small-scale, has become a major focus of the restructuring efforts.

In the mid 1980's, the Bolivian government began the process of restructuring by dismantling state bureaucracies, eliminating economic interventionist policies and privatizing the economy, putting the country on a path of austere economic stabilization and structural adjustment. As a result of the new legal and development currents, irrigation systems in Bolivia are in the process of dramatic institutional change. The 1994 Popular Participation Law, which called for the redrawing of municipal boundaries throughout the country, has incorporated every *comunidad indigena* into the newly expanded category of *sección municipal*. Isolated rural communities now have legal status and therefore a vehicle for

participation in local and national governance and rights to a share of national tax revenue.

Further institutional changes are anticipated to take place if Bolivia's proposed new water law is implemented. The proposed law is intended to simplify and correct obvious deficiencies in the 1906 *Ley de Aguas*, and to take into consideration the newly expanded municipal structure. Progress on the law, however, has been halted for the present time.

In the context of these shifts in the legal framework and the increasing prominence of irrigation issues in national politics developments, Bolivia provides an apt case for examining three main issues significant to scholarship on Andean irrigation. They are, first, the organization of irrigation systems, second, the governance of irrigation systems, and third, the impacts of external agents intervening in irrigation systems.

The study of the agrarian cooperative movement in Hong Kong---vegetable marketing cooperative societies as example (1945--1997)

Publication Number AAT 3302412

Chan, Yuk-lai, Ph.D., The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong), 2007, 230 pages; Advisor: unknown

Abstract (Summary)

Agricultural development has long been the biggest challenge faced by governments or rulers of many countries and regions, be it in the past or at present. It affects the various political, social and economic development aspects of a country or region. Based on various long-term and short-term social needs, the authorities have attempted to find a suitable balance, searching constantly for feasible methods to manage agriculture, in the hope of harmonising the interests of peasant households, consumers and the ruling class through administrative measures. This has resulted in continuous adjustments in agricultural policies and effectively affected the development of agriculture as well as the well-being of farmers and the general public.

As an entrepôt, Hong Kong had very little arable land. The number of people engaged in farming, either directly or indirectly, was dwarfed by the consumer population. How to provide the large population with sufficient food, enabling it to be a driver behind economic development? This question became an important political issue for the Hong Kong colonial government for more than 100 years. Sino-British relations fluctuated considerably after the Second World War and this made agricultural development a thorny problem for the colonial government. In

the course of studying 60 years of agricultural development, the most striking impression is that the Hong Kong colonial government was totally involved in agricultural production in the New Territories through the systematic promotion of the cooperative movement involving production, transport and marketing. This had made contribution to Hong Kong's unique political and social environment.

This thesis reconstructs the agricultural history of Hong Kong in the post-war period. It explores the profound influence that the Agricultural Cooperative Movement has on the political ecosystem of the villages in the New Territories, economic efficiency and human relations in rural communities.

Micro-credit and gendered moral economies: A case study of micro-credit cooperatives in rural Mexico

Publication Number AAT 1447385

Worthen, Holly, M.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007, 52 pages; Advisor: Wolford, Wendy.

Abstract (Summary)

Micro-credit programs, one of the most important development initiatives within the past decade, often target rural women in the Global South. While some hail micro-credit programs as a development panacea that promotes women's empowerment, others view it as a problematic form of capitalist expansion in an era of neoliberalism. Through a case study of micro-credit in rural Mexico, this article complicates both these views and uses the concept of gendered moral economies to understand the gendered complexities of micro-credit programs. Gendered moral economies emphasizes how gendered social relations are constitutive of economic relations. It serves as a framework to help analyze how gender norms both shape and are shaped by negotiations over the distribution of scarce resources. Examining how micro-credit comes to make sense to rural Mexican women, this study demonstrates that definitions of proper gendered behavior are a key site through which micro-credit programs are accepted or rejected.

Small Farmers and the Agro-industrial Production and Services Cooperative of Coronel Oviedo: Opportunities for growth

Publication Number AAT 1441268

Farnan, Tara Colleen, M.A., Duquesne University, 2007, 105 pages; Advisor Harper, Douglas.

Abstract (Summary)

This study examines the relationship between a group of campesinos and a Cooperative in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay that were undergoing a debt default crisis. I spoke individually with small farmers and staff members about their experiences working with the Cooperative and their opinions about the future of the organization. Their responses grouped into themes that suggested ways to improve the relationship between farmers and their Cooperative as well as improve farmer involvement in the Cooperative. Based on recent scholarship in effective agricultural extension methods and rural development, I saw three main opportunities for the Cooperative to improve its relationship with its rural members. Improved and Expanded Extension Activities for Farmers, Improved Farmer Involvement in the Administration of the Cooperative, and Increased Credit Education, Restrictions, and Controls. I then discussed the likely benefits and obstacles to each of those recommended changes.

Feasibility of machinery cooperatives in Oklahoma

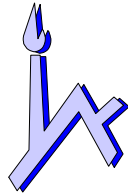
Publication Number AAT 1449840

Long, Garret Lee, M.S., Oklahoma State University, 2007, 74 pages; Advisor: Kenkel, Phil.

Abstract (Summary)

This study used a feasibility template which calculates and compares the cost of individual and cooperative machinery ownership. Specifically the study focused on the potential for savings to Oklahoma agricultural producer through the formation of machinery cooperatives. Three machinery cooperatives representative of Oklahoman wheat, cotton and hay production were analyzed. A case study of was also examined for a group of Oklahoma hay producers. Machinery operating cost was typically reduced by 12 to 29% in the base scenarios. Various sizes of machinery cooperatives were examined and savings increased as the number of members increased. The initial investment required by the producers was reduced by 16 to 60% as the numbers of members in the machinery cooperative increased

form 3 to 5 members. Even with the addition of transportation and setup time in the machinery cooperative completion of the production activities was not an issue for these machinery cooperative examples. Machinery cooperatives allow producer the ability to achieve greater efficiency of their machinery by using more of its capacity in a machinery cooperative.



The Hebrew
University
of Jerusalem

**The Center for
Agricultural
Economic Research**

Rural Cooperation in the 21st Century: Lessons from the Past, Pathways to the Future

An International Workshop Rehovot, Israel, June 15-17, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Management of the Hebrew University will host an international workshop on "Rural Cooperation in the 21st Century: Lessons from the Past, Pathways to the Future". The workshop will take place on the campus of the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Rehovot, Israel, during June 15-17, 2009. The organizers are Professor Ayal Kimhi (The Hebrew University) and Professor Richard J. Sexton (University of California, Davis).

The program of the workshop will include both invited and selected presentations. We solicit papers related to all aspects of rural cooperation, and particularly encourage papers in one of the following themes: Traditional and non-traditional organizational forms of rural cooperatives; Changes in the rural environment and the cooperative response; The role of cooperatives in rural community development; Structural changes in agricultural marketing cooperatives; Cooperative relationships, partnerships and networks; Social and economic performance of cooperatives.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this workshop, please submit electronically an extended abstract or a complete paper, before December 31, 2008, to jrc@agri.huji.ac.il. Preference will be given to those submitting complete papers.

We expect to be able to offer a modest travel subsidy to young participants. If you wish to be considered for a travel subsidy, please enclose a short CV and a list of publications with your submission. Graduate students and post-docs should also enclose a letter of support from their supervisor.

Selected papers from the workshop will be included in a special issue of the *Journal of Rural Cooperation*. If you wish your paper to be considered for publication in *JRC*, please indicate that in your submission message.

Further information will be posted as it becomes available at the workshop's web site: <http://departments.agri.huji.ac.il/economics/coop-workshop.html>.

Financial support from the following institutions is gratefully acknowledged:

BARD - The United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund
Authority for Research & Development, The Hebrew University
The Center for Agricultural Economic Research

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
(Organ of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics)

Vol. 63

APRIL-JUNE 2008

No. 2

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

- Beyond Waivers: Need to Redesign the Bank Loans and Offer Effective Hedge Products *R. Bhaskaran*
- Sustaining Rural Livelihoods in Fragile Environments: Resource Endowments and Policy Interventions - A Study in the Context of Participatory Watershed Development in Andhra Pradesh *V. Ratna Reddy, M. Gopinath Reddy, Y.V. Malla Reddy and John Soussan*
- A Planned Market Intervention for the Bamboo Sector of Kerala *V. Anitha, P.K. Muraleedharan, K.V. Santheep, Shijo Thomas and M.P. Sreelakshmi*

RESEARCH NOTES

- Livestock Sector Composition and Factors Affecting Its Growth *Ramesh Chand and S.S. Raju*
- Behaviour of Rural Households in the Borrowing and Usage of Credit in North-East Uplands of India *Sumarbin Umdor*
- Rural Non-Farm Sector in Punjab: Pattern and Access to Employment and Income *Kamal Vatta and B.R. Garg*
- Effect of Socio-Economic and Agro-ecological Factors on Structure and Ownership of Livestock: Evidence from Rajasthan *A. Suresh, D.C. Gupta, J.S. Mann and V.K. Singh*

BOOK REVIEWS*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED *

INDICATIVE OUTLINES OF SUBJECTS SELECTED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE 69TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ISAE* ANNOUNCEMENT: 27TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS*

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The Center for Agricultural Economic Research is a nonprofit organization established in 1968 and supported by the Hebrew University, the Government of Israel, Bank Leumi Le-Israel and Bank Hapoalim. Professor Yair Mundlak is the chairman of the Board of Trustees. Professor Israel Finkelshtain is the Director of Research.

Recent Discussion Papers

- 1.08 Yair Mundlak, Rita Butzer and Donald F. Larson - **Heterogeneous Technology and Panel Data: The Case of the Agricultural Production Function.**
- 2.08 Zvi Lerman - **Tajikistan: An Overview of Land and Farm Structure Reforms.**
- 3.08 Dmitry Zvyagintsev, Olga Shick, Eugenia Serova and Zvi Lerman - **Diversification of Rural Incomes and Non-Farm Rural Employment: Evidence from Russia.**
- 4.08 Dragos Cimpoeies and Zvi Lerman - **Land Policy and Farm Efficiency: The Lessons of Moldova.**
- 5.08 Ayal Kimhi - **Has Debt Restructuring Facilitated Structural Transformation on Israeli Family Farms?**
- 6.08 Yacov Tsur and Amos Zemel - **Endogenous Discounting and Climate Policy.**
- 7.08 Zvi Lerman - **Agricultural Development in Uzbekistan: The Effect of Ongoing Reforms.**
- 8.08 Iddo Kan, Ofira Ayalon and Roy Federman - **Economic Efficiency of Compost Production: The Case of Israel.**
- 9.08 Iddo Kan, David Haim, Mickey Rapaport-Rom and Mordechai Shechter - **Environmental Amenities and Optimal Agricultural Land Use: The Case of Israel.**
- 10.08 Goetz, Linde, von Cramon-Taubadel, Stephan and Kachel, Yael - **Measuring Price Transmission in the International Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chain: The Case of Israeli Grapefruit Exports to the EU.**

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