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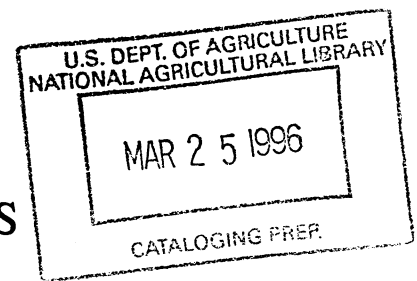
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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE

A Conference Sponsored by S-224 Regional Research Project

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Fred J. Ruppel
Program Coordinator

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DOES AFRICA REALLY LACK INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS? COMPARISONS BETWEEN AFRICA AND ASIA

Peter Calkins, Sylvain Lariviere and Frederic Martin
Université Laval, Quebec

This paper attempts to compare the development and trade performance of a similar set of countries from Africa and Asia. Econometric and non-parametric analyses conclude that for the entire sample 1) a critical determinant of the level of GNP per capita is the level of exports, 2) export value in turn depends critically upon the share of agricultural products within exports, as well as upon internal development policy parameters, and 3) within such agricultural products, both Asia and Africa have chosen their product emphases based on the evolution of the ranking of world commodity market shares.

Similarly, country- and commodity specific analyses have confirmed points 1) and 2), while rejecting the sub-hypothesis that factors affecting agricultural and trade performance differed for Asia. There is much diversity in the performance of the selected countries within each continent, arguing against a simplistic perspective of Asian success and African failure. If Asia overall performance is better than African performance, this is mainly the result of better economic policies and institutions and to a lesser extent the result of better initial conditions. The final and most important conclusion of this paper is an encouraging message for Africa for its long run development.

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Session III

Country-Specific Studies

Tuesday, April 9

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Emily McClain
Clemson University
Moderator**