

Pathways out of Rural Poverty in Developing Countries

Mini-course given at the Graduate Program in Applied Economics,
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by

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Course Description

This course examines issues and techniques related to the study of rural poverty in developing countries. The course begins by providing a framework for thinking about pathways out of rural poverty in developing countries, and reviews some of the empirical evidence for Brazil. The second and third days of the course address issues related to agricultural employment and income, and non-agricultural employment and income. The fourth day examines international experiences with land reform and conditional cash transfer programs. A primary goal of the course is to expose Brazilian Ph.D. students to the international literature on rural poverty, and to use this literature as a context for identifying research questions, appropriate methods, and data sources for Ph.D. dissertations about rural poverty in Brazil.

Outline

Day 1. Pathways out of rural poverty: Overview, issues, and evidence from Brazil

1. Pathways out of rural poverty: A framework
 - a) Poverty and agricultural income
 - b) Poverty and non-agricultural income
 - c) Anti-poverty policies: conditional cash transfers
 - d) Exit: rural poverty and migration
2. Methodological issues
 - a) Poverty concepts: FGT, income vs consumption, multi-dimensional
 - b) Poverty across space: micro area estimation
 - c) Poverty over time: decompositions and initial conditions
 - d) Poverty dynamics: chronic vs transitory poverty
 - e) Identification, counterfactuals, and causality

Day 2: The agricultural pathway

1. Price policy and measure of protection
2. Transactions costs and use of the market
3. Productivity in agriculture
4. Land reform and assets

Day 3: The non-agricultural pathway

1. RNAE and poverty
2. RNAE and geography
3. RNAE and dynamics

Day 4: Asset transfers (land reform) and cash transfers (CCTs): The international experience

1. Land reform
2. CCTs

1. Agricultural Issues in Developing Countries

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3. Household Models

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