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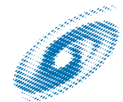
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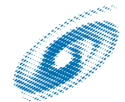
SI657/757: Information Technology and Global Development (WI 10)

Wk 10: Agriculture and Rural Development



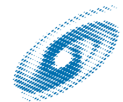
General Notes:

- 657 reading notes, 757 lit reviews
- IIAD pre-proposal feedback and 757 lit review feedback in last hour
- New syllabus, next week's readings
- Reminder: April 12th & 19th classes



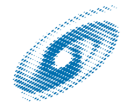
General *neglect* of agriculture and rural development in classic development theory

- For example, role of ag & rural development in Lewis' two-sector model, Rostow's stages of growth
- Double neglect in pre-history of ICT4D work (infrastructural constraints, etc.)

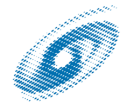


Rethinking ag & rural development

- Population growth, food shortages and commodity shocks on the consumption end
- Limits of industry-led development paths for large parts of the world (incl. as interpreted by structural adjustment programs of 80s & 90s; nb: 'fallacy of composition'; pathologies of national food policy)
- Pathologies of urban/rural migration
- Continuing concentration of population in rural areas (50-65%)
- Rural concentration of poverty and malnutrition: 2/3 of extreme poor are in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming

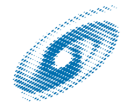


- Rural integrated development programs: ag + local industrial development (standards of living, check on rural-urban migration)

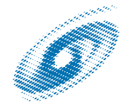


Tenancy, inputs, and risk

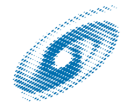
- land distribution: gigantism, fragmentation, absenteeism, and dispossession
- 'Green Revolution' in Asia (but not Africa): new seed types (IRRI), new inputs (fertilizer, water)
- Economics of risk



- UN Millennium Development Goals
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program

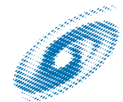


- Social organization of the rural sector: agricultural extension, producer cooperatives, existing mechanisms of information transfer and exchange
- Social organization of sharing
- Pre-history of ICTs and rural development (northern experiences, e.g. Telidon)



Discussion: Jensen and Aker

- What possibilities do improved market information systems (with or without mobile or other ICTs) bring to primary resource processors (e.g. Jensen's fisherman) or agriculturalists in the developing world?
- What barriers of implementation or performance might such systems face?
- Are there particular kinds of communities or contexts in which we imagine such systems could make a difference?
Communities or contexts for which they won't?



Discussion: Burrell

- How might existing social structures shape the nature of ICT access and sharing, in ways both positive and negative?
- Beyond the phone sharing context described by Burrell, can we imagine similar ways in which social structure patterns access and use of things like telecenters, market information systems, etc.?

