



Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Seminar Series
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Comparative Economic Development in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh Agriculture in the 20th Century

Takashi Kurosaki

Date: Tuesday, 07 March 2017

Time: 4 pm

Venue: Seminar Room, HSS

This talk empirically analyzes the long-term process of agricultural development in the Indian Subcontinent, based on new datasets compiled by the speaker. The basic approach of the analysis is comparative. First, agricultural performance in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh--the three largest countries in South Asia--is compared. Second, the process of agricultural transformation is investigated at the country, regional, and farm level, enabling the author to compare empirical patterns at different aggregation levels. In the analysis, aggregate land productivity is structurally associated with inter-crop and inter-region reallocation of land use. This is a source of growth not fully explored in the literature. The empirical results in this volume thus shed new light on understanding the role of resource reallocation in economic growth and its relationship with the development of rural markets. The datasets used in this book include country-level data covering the period c.1900-2000. At the time of independence in 1947, the Indian Subcontinent under the British Raj was partitioned into areas currently in India and areas covering Pakistan and Bangladesh. The author carefully adjusts colonial statistics to estimate the long-term time series of production data corresponding to the current international borders dating back to the early 20th century. The empirical findings in this book thus provide insightful implications to the future of South Asian agricultural production, which is key to sustainable poverty reduction in the 21st century.

About the Speaker

Takashi Kurosaki is Professor at Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan and presently a Visiting Professor at Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

Prof. Kurosaki started his research career in 1987 as a researcher on the economies of the South Asia region at the Institute of Developing Economies. He moved to the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University in 1997. His research is largely divided into two areas. The first area is modeling economic behavior under risk and the empirical application of these models in the context of rural poverty in South Asia. His second major research area is the empirical analysis of market development in low-income economies using historical statistics. He holds a Ph.D. in development economics from Stanford University (1995).