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Women in Economics Network

The impacts of maize variety adoption and women's access to agricultural extension on household welfare in Timor-Leste

Dr Sonia Akter

Assistant Dean (Research) &
Assistant Professor,
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National University of Singapore



19 July 2018

5:30 to 7:00pm - Talk and discussion

Light refreshments & drinks served on arrival

Belgian Beer Café,
27-29 Ebenezer Pl, Adelaide

Abstract:

This study examines the impact of adoption of improved maize varieties on smallholder farmers' market participation in a highly subsistence rural economy. The analysis is based on End-of-Program Survey (EoPS) data collected by the *Seeds of Life* program in 2016 covering 700 households in rural Timor-Leste. An instrumental variable approach is utilized to overcome the inherent endogeneity bias associated with the high yielding variety adoption. The results reveal significant positive impacts of adoption on maize productivity, which subsequently leads to greater market participation by the adopters to sell the surplus produce. Our findings present first empirical evidence to support the causal link between technology adoption and market participation choices. These findings underscore the need for promoting agricultural technologies to subsistence based rural economies as they have the potential to move people out of poverty.

About the speaker:

Sonia Akter is Assistant Dean (Research) and Assistant Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. Previously she was Scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) where she led the Gender Research Team and was the coordinator for gender research of the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) program of the CGIAR (2014–2015). Prior to that, she was Senior Researcher at Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ, Leipzig, Germany (2011–2013). She graduated with a PhD in Environmental Management and Development from the Australian National University in 2010, and holds a MS degree in Economics from York University, Toronto, Canada.

Please [RSVP online here](#) by 5pm Monday 16 July 2018.