

Development Economics

Changing migration patterns: Drivers and constraints

International migration has received a lot of international attention lately as migration flows from conflict zones and poor regions (Africa) expanded rapidly in recent years. What are the drivers of such migration and what are the consequences of migration to Europe and other countries for migration within Africa? Different angles could be chosen to study these complex migration issues.

Contact person: Stein Holden, School of Economics and Business, NMBU:
stein.holden@nmbu.no

Youth livelihood strategies in a changing world

Youth unemployment has become a growing problem in many countries. Economic stagnation and crisis combined with digitization/robotification which may cause many types of jobs to disappear. Growing landlessness and continued rapid population growth contribute to youth migration and unemployment in Africa. Some fear that a concentration of desperate unemployed youth in growing numbers in urban areas can increase the risks of social instability and political unrest. What is being done in different countries to tackle this problem and how effective are the policies used?

Contact person: Stein Holden, School of Economics and Business, NMBU:
stein.holden@nmbu.no

Sustainable Development Goals

The UN recently launched the new Sustainable Development Goals and a strategy to operationalize them. How is this being done, how do they aim to measure achievements and what impacts do the SDGs have on specific actions taken by international organizations and various countries? Studies may focus on specific SDGs and how they are attempted operationalized.

Contact person: Stein Holden, School of Economics and Business, NMBU:
stein.holden@nmbu.no

Impacts of digitalization and new communication technologies in developing countries

Mobile phones, internet, satellite imagery, etc. have reduced costs of communication an order of magnitude and can connect people living in remote places to the global economy at a much lower cost than earlier. This has likely contributed to the much more rapid economic growth we now see in many developing countries and this again stimulates investment in infrastructure and other aspects of development. How does this affect market characteristics in developing countries?

This may vary across different types of markets and locations over time. How does it e.g. affect credit markets and how far credit institutions penetrate into rural areas? How does it affect seasonal price volatility for food crops that are produced in rain-fed agriculture? Are economies

Temaer er aktuelle kun for masterstudenter ved Handelshøyskolen, NMBU

getting better integrated and thereby more protected against climate shocks?

Contact person: Stein Holden, School of Economics and Business, NMBU:
stein.holden@nmbu.no

The effects of improved international market access for agricultural products

Inside the WTO some developing countries try to improve the access for imported agricultural products in the markets of the industrial countries. This will make changes to both consumption and production in the developing countries. How will this work in the rural areas you study?

What is the effect on poverty, and may this trigger economic development and redistribution?

Contact person: Roberto Garcia, School of Economics and Business, NMBU:
roberto.garcia@nmbu.no

Microfinance

Assessing the performance and possible development effects of such schemes in one or more districts could be suitable as a Master thesis project.

Contact person: Mette Wik, School of Economics and Business, NMBU: mette.wik@nmbu.no

Income diversification and food security

Many places in developing countries rural households do not control enough land to fulfil dietary needs of the household. It is likely that other sources of income (eg. sales of fish, animal products and handicrafts, other employment or migration) are used for purchase of food.

Possible research questions: What are the major strategies for food security? How are these strategies influenced by access to resources, use of resources, agricultural production system, market access and other socio-economic factors? Which socioeconomic factors influence the nutritional status the most? How important is agricultural production in determining nutritional status? How important are other sources of income? What effect does diversification of income sources have on the distribution of income? Does higher income guarantee higher food expenditures, resulting in higher nutrient intake and an improvement in nutritional status? Are some sources of income more important than others when it comes to improving nutritional status?

Contact person: Mette Wik, School of Economics and Business, NMBU: mette.wik@nmbu.no

Self-organization in forest user groups

Many rural villagers self-organize in user groups to manage a common-pool resource. What are the incentives to participate? Who participates (poor-rich)?

This will use the PEN data set and explore participation across sites in 24 countries

Contact person: Arild Angelsen, School of Economics and Business, NMBU:
arild.angelsen@nmbu.no