

Rural Transformation and Farmer Response in Irrigated Lowland Villages in Java: Two Time Point Panel Data Analysis, 1996–2008 (RUTRANS)

In brief

This study focuses on livelihood strategies in irrigated areas of West Java, Indonesia, by considering the comparative analysis of two time panel data (1996 and 2008). It is funded by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).

Overview

Irrigated wetland areas in densely populated parts of Java are growing very fast, providing interesting social and economic phenomena. The farm, household and rural economies relating to improved infrastructure and the integration of rural urban areas, have rapidly changed. A descriptive and comparative study on these issues in the last decades will give substantial knowledge for formulating strategic policy to enhance agriculture and rural development for the benefit of rural people.

Objective

The objective is to capture the dynamism of livelihood strategies in irrigated lowland areas including: (i) constructing the micro level panel data set using two time frames, 1996 and 2008; (ii) capturing the demographic changes in the households in that period; (iii) tracing the change in land tenure/use, crop choice and employment at the household/individual levels; (iv) analysing the technological development or structural change in rice production in accordance with the relative change in price factors; and (v) clarifying the change in employment structure in accordance with the development of labor markets, household human capital, and individual job preference.

Methodology

Basically, the study will conduct a comparative analysis on the two-time data panel of 1996 and 2008 including farm, household and rural economics. Farm economic analysis will consider all dimensions of rice agribusiness with respect to its main competing crops. The main aspects of the household economy such as the dynamic change of resource endowment, income and employment structure, as well as survival strategies adopted by the rural household, will be taken into consideration. While for rural area, infrastructure development and its impact on land and labour markets, food security and poverty will be analysed.

Output

The study will offer a comprehensive inter-temporal change of rice economy and its competing crops, household and rural economy. This substantial data/information will be a basis for formulating strategic policy dealing with food security improvement and poverty reduction in rural areas. This study will be relevant for other countries that have similar agro-ecosystems in the region.