

**POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

CASE-STUDIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

General Editor: David Greenaway, Professor of Economics,
University of Nottingham

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Poverty, Inequality and Rural Development

Case-Studies in Economic Development,
Volume 3

Edited by

Tim Lloyd

*Lecturer in Economics
University of Nottingham*

and

Oliver Morrissey

*Lecturer in Economics
University of Nottingham*



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General Editor's Foreword

As anyone who has taught development economics to undergraduates will be aware, case-study material is very important. It is a medium which helps highlight the key role of country-specific factors (such as institutional constraints) in explaining particular processes or episodes. The problem from a teaching perspective however, is that once one has crammed all the analytical material we regard as essential into a programme of lectures, there is precious little time available for the study of particular cases. In the light of this, some years ago the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT) at the University of Nottingham initiated a programme of development seminars designed to fill this gap. We were helped in this venture by Maxwell Stamp plc, a leading economic consultancy firm with extensive experience in developing countries. They generously supported our programme, allowing us to bring in outside speakers with specialist knowledge.

The Maxwell Stamp Lectures have turned out to be an invaluable teaching resource to students and faculty alike. Out of these Lectures has grown *Case-Studies in Economic Development*. This is a five-volume series which we hope will prove useful to students and teachers of development economics. The cases are arranged thematically. The first volume focused on *Policy Adjustment in Africa*. Like the second volume *Topics in Policy Appraisal*, this volume is thematic rather than region-specific. We settled upon *Poverty and Inequality* because these are defining characteristics of developing countries, and are areas where there is no shortage of excellent work under way. As General Editor I am personally very pleased with the way things have worked out in this volume. Tim Lloyd and Oliver Morrissey have done an excellent job in carefully editing the papers, as well as setting the scene. The papers themselves cover issues relating to the causes of poverty, government intervention in its alleviation and the pattern of inequality. The case-studies themselves include China, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania. I found them informative and stimulating and I hope others find them equally rewarding.

A number of people who have been involved in this project deserve thanks. First, the volume editors for steering this through to publication. Second, Oliver Morrissey who takes responsibility within CREDIT

for organising the Maxwell Stamp Lectures. Last, but by no means least, Maxwell Stamp plc for their generous sponsorship of the Lectures. I hope they will be widely used as a teaching aid.

David Greenaway
CREDIT, University of Nottingham

Preface

The contributions to this edited volume emerged from a series of seminars in development economics given to students at the University of Nottingham between 1990 and 1992, which were sponsored by Maxwell Stamp plc. We would like to express our gratitude to Maxwell Stamp for facilitating the organisation of the seminar programme, without which there would have been no material from which to conceive this volume.

We are of course especially grateful to the individual contributors. Not only were they willing and able to come to Nottingham and present a seminar to our students, but they were also willing and diligent in preparing their contributions to this volume (which in some cases were only tentatively related to the actual subject of their seminar). We endeavoured to select from some twenty seminars over three years those that would contribute to the theme of rural development, and commend the authors in tailoring their contributions to the theme. Poverty afflicts more than a fifth of the world's population, the majority in rural areas, and we hope this volume can contribute to our understanding of the process of rural development and to the design and implementation of policies to alleviate poverty.

Finally, a general thanks to all those who have made this volume possible, notably staff at Macmillan. In particular, we should register the support and encouragement of David Greenaway who initiated the series of *Case-Studies in Economic Development*, of which this is the third volume.

Tim Lloyd
Oliver Morrissey

Notes on the Contributors

David Burch is Senior Lecturer in the Division of Science and Technology, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

Harold Coulombe is Research Associate with the Development Economics Research Centre (DERC) in the Department of Economics, University of Warwick.

Lawrence Haddad is Senior Economist with the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC.

John Hoddinott is Research Officer with the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) and Research Lecturer of Trinity College, Oxford.

John Knight is Senior Research Officer with the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) and a Fellow of St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Peter Lanjouw is an economist in the Policy Research Department of the World Bank, Washington, DC.

John Lingard is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing, University of Newcastle.

Tim Lloyd is Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT) and a Lecturer in Economics, University of Nottingham.

J. Allister McGregor is Research Fellow in the Centre for Development Studies and Lecturer in Development Studies, University of Bath.

Andrew McKay is Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT) and a Lecturer in Economics, University of Nottingham.

Oliver Morrissey is Assistant Director in the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT) and a Lecturer in Economics, University of Nottingham.

Wendy Olsen is Lecturer in Social Research Skills, Departments of Sociology at Salford University and Lancaster University (joint appointment).

Robert Read is Lecturer in Economics in the Management School, Lancaster University.