



Analysis of cross border agricultural trade in Bangladesh, India and Nepal

Overview

The volumes and types of rice traded in South Asia are influenced by changing dietary preferences, ongoing policy efforts to increase farmer incomes, farm-level impacts of climate variability and the various pathologies of South Asian trade.

Understanding the political economy roots of rice markets in India, the process of export and the drivers of demand in Bangladesh and Nepal are an important part of creating better policy outcomes for farmers. This project frames the political economy of rice trade by casting light on key variables that should be considered both in the policy formulation process and interventions by external actors.

Research

This framing of the political economy of rice trade between Bangladesh, India, and Nepal combines four levels of analysis: the source, the border, the point of consumption, and the institutions of influence. Analysis of the source includes understanding the effects of subsidies (such as those on water and electricity), support prices, technology, investment, wholesalers, and transport.

The analysis of the border examines the politics of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Understanding the point of consumption involves an examination of the pricing of imports, local distortionary practices and protectionist impulses.

Finally, the analysis of the institutions of influence studies the role of various arms of the state, domestic markets, and international markets.

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Project leader(s) and Commissioned Organisation

Dr Sagar Prasai, The Asia Foundation

Partner country project leaders and their institutions

None

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Dr Robyn Johnston

Achievements

A review of secondary research and data was completed in March, and field visits for the project were undertaken in April.

