

COLLOQUIUM BY XIAOHUA YU

AIR POLLUTION AND FOOD PRICES: EVIDENCE FROM CHINA

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VENUE: RM1079, ACADEMIC BUILDING

Air pollution and food prices: Evidence from China

Speaker: Prof. Xiaohua Yu, Chair of Agricultural Economics in Developing and Transition Countries, University of Göttingen



ABSTRACT:

Air pollution is one of the top environmental concerns in China. On days with severe air pollution, people (both consumers and producers) often reduce outdoor economic activities in order to avoid possible health damages. This impacts the market trade of fresh food products, at least in a short run. This empirical study sheds light on the impact of air pollution on the short run prices of three major fresh food products (Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, and pork) using daily data from the largest outdoor wholesale market in Beijing. With an increase in AQI (Air Quality Index) by 100 units, prices for Chinese cabbage and tomatoes decrease by 1.19% and 0.89%. With an increase in PM_{2.5} concentration by 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, prices for Chinese cabbage

and tomatoes decrease by 0.64% and 0.55%. Air pollution affects vegetable prices, but has no significant impact on prices of pork products.

BIO:

Prof. Xiaohua Yu is the Chair of Agricultural Economics in Developing and Transition Countries. He is teaching at University of Göttingen, the department of agricultural economics and rural development. His research interest is in the area of Agricultural Economics, Environmental Economics, Development Economics and Applied Econometrics.

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