

PRESENTATIONS CIFREM SECOND YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

*Thursday, 3 February 2011
3 PM – DISA Seminar room
Via Inama, 5
Trento*

Organizational competencies, external environment, and the evolution of firm productivity:

Abstract

In order to understand the evolution of productivity in an industry a firm-level analysis is needed since heterogeneous firms actually make decisions and respond in different ways to changes in the external environment. This proposal aims to define a framework of organizational behaviour in which a firm's technological search may be driven or constrained by organizational competencies. One element of this framework is that firms with different organizational competencies search for better technological solutions by imitating technologies already used in the industry or by discovering new technologies that will open up to profitable opportunities in the output market. The initial hypothesis is that the dynamic relationship between organizational competencies of the firm and the external environment drive the technological advancement that, in turn, shapes the evolution of productivity. This framework will then be used to test hypotheses on the evolution of the productivity distribution in two industries.

Speaker: Enrico Tundis - CIFREM University of Trento, Italy

Climate Change, Crop Yield Variability, and Food Price Volatility in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Ethiopian Case

Abstract

Ethiopia has endured three ideologically distinct policy regimes, each of which has aimed to increase agricultural productivity, reduce poverty, and accelerate industrialization. Despite policy shifts, agriculture has remained largely subsistence. Subsistence agriculture may not generate enough surplus that supports the adoption of productivity enhancing inputs that would reduce the impact of severe weather shocks. Climate variability can be a key factor that may have delayed structural transformation. This study will use data on historical cereal crops production, cereal prices, and weather conditions and examine how variations in climatic conditions together with other factors have influenced agricultural productivity. It will also investigate the effects of variability in weather, policy shifts, and food aid on food price volatility. Moreover, the study will examine factors that have influenced irrigation development. To achieve these goals, econometric models that estimate impact of climate variables on agricultural productivity and food price volatility will be developed.

Speaker: Zerihun G. Kelbore- CIFREM University of Trento, Italy