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Announcing a New Publication
by Food Research Institute Scholars

Rice in West Africa: Policy and Economics

WAITE MEMORIAL BOOK COLLECTION
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Scott R. Pearson, J. Dirck Stryker,
Charles P. Humphreys, and others

Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region in the world to have experienced a decline in food production and consumption per capita between 1960 and 1975. Projections of future African food supplies and needs foretell a continuation or even worsening of this pattern unless prompt and effective remedial action is taken. This book addresses several significant aspects of this crucial problem, focusing on rice production, consumption, and trade in five countries of West Africa—the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Mali.

The analysis is in three parts. First, the individual countries are studied in terms of the economic efficiency of alternative techniques and locations of production. Next, the incentive effects of government trade, price, tax/subsidy, and investment policies are analyzed. Finally, comparative analyses are made of the productive efficiency of various techniques and locations and of the effectiveness of policies, first within the individual countries, and then among all five countries. The authors demonstrate that this innovative approach to agricultural policy analysis could have wide applicability throughout Africa—or in any low-income agricultural country.

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