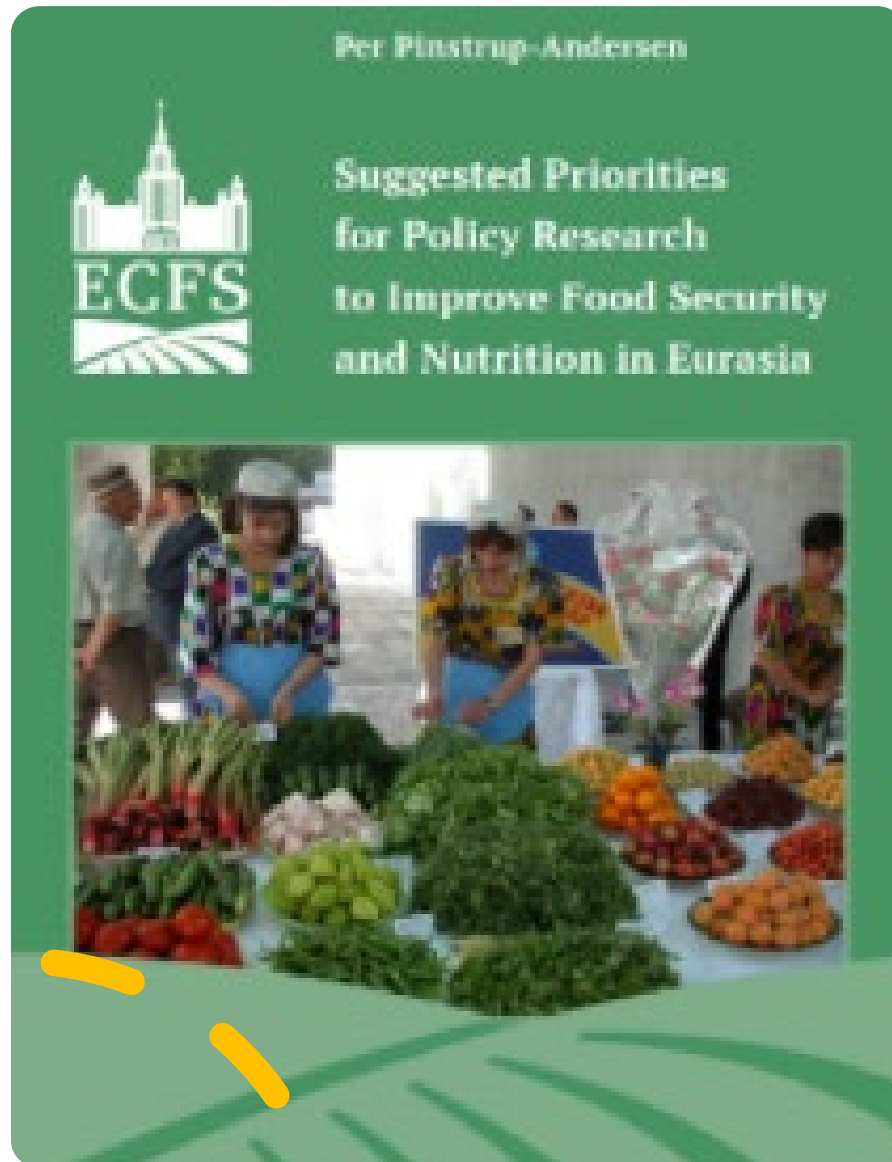


Collaboration between the World Bank and ECFS in developing case study approach for food policy in Eurasia: Experience and lessons learned

Artavazd Hakobyan

Situation

- Investments in agricultural research and development programs in the Eurasian region are low compared with other regions.
 - Of global CGIAR research financing of US\$ 900 mln/year, around US\$ 6 mln is spent in the Eurasia region
- Region is vulnerable to food crises
 - Food security in the region has improved substantially over the past two decades.
 - Challenges remain, such as prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, prevalence of various forms of malnutrition – stunting, wasting and overweight among children younger than five years of age; anemia among women of reproductive age; obesity among adolescents and adults; and an inadequate level of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.
- Relatively low level of food policy research
 - Google scholar search of “food security in Eurasia” yields 16,900 non-unique hits (compare with more than 160,000 hits for Africa)
- Food policy in the region is largely based on ad-hoc government capacities or at best on the recommendations of external researchers (through donor programs).
 - Lack of robust domestic research, reliance on globally available evidence or data to guide local policy decisions.
 - Insufficient policy capacity to address food crisis in 2008–09, when the countries were searching for policy tools to address increasing food prices.



Actions

- Prioritization of policy research priorities.
- Knowledge exchange and educational initiatives targeting food policy practitioners, students and professors.
- Research activities to generate new knowledge and to train food policy researchers in new methods.
- Partnerships and collaboration between various universities and research centers in the region.

Food policy-relevant case method

- Dual objective: rapid food policy analysis *and* teaching material for food policy students.
- A research method for intensive analysis of a single food policy-relevant case or phenomenon within its real-life context for the purpose of clearly understanding the problem and defining policy-relevant issues.
- The utility of case study to guide national food policy is limited by the ability of case studies to provide evidence that can be generalized to environments and populations beyond the environment and population for which the study was carried out.
- Generally does not use econometric analysis, randomized sample trials or other detailed research methods.
- Developed by Per Pinstrup-Andersen, based on a successful experiences of using case method in food policy teaching.
- Aims at generating discussion and simulating a real-life situation in which students and/or policy practitioners can identify and evaluate various policy options, stakeholders and impacts.

Results

- To date, 29 cases have been written with 60 authors from various universities of the Eurasian region.
- Each phase is competitive and has a relevant and timely thematic focus linked with the prioritization exercise.
- A highly qualified commission reviews and evaluates cases.
- Case authors are invited to participate in a training on the teaching of the case method.
- Authors are current professors and lecturers in universities, who then use cases and the case method in their teaching.

Thank you!

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