Impact Assessment of Microfinance Interventions in Ghana and South Africa: A Synthesis of Major Impacts and Lessons

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Abstract
International trade liberalization often implies increased potentials for export production. In order to invest in increasing capacity in agriculture, farmers need to have credit access. However, farmers in Central Europe and East Africa, among other places, are credit constrained, due to collateral reasons. A model illustrates the additional producer gains from having access to credit; the gains are composed of a price effect, an investment effect, and a social-capital externality. The model and empirical findings suggest that improvements of agricultural credit can be achieved by relying on existing social structures, such as farmers' social capital. The paper concludes that such externalities need to be addressed when designing optimal agricultural credit institutions.

Biography
Dr. Sam Afrane is a Senior lecturer in the Department of Planning of the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana.

Impact assessment of microfinance interventions in Ghana and South Africa: A systematic review. The major problem identified in the review is that few, if any, studies provide reliable evidence of impact using the criteria normally adopted in systematic reviews: a randomized controlled trial (RCT) and control group. In this section, we look at randomized versus non-randomized.