



Instytut Ekonomii i Finansów

SEMINARIUM NAUKOWE / RESEARCH SEMINAR

Agrifood Supply Chains in Rapid Transition: Lessons from Emerging Economies for Farmers' Futures and Value Chain Resilience



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godz. 12:00

Sala/room 116, budynek 7

Miejsce/Place: Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego w Warszawie, ul. Nowoursynowska 166, room 116/VII
Dostęp zdalny/Access via TEAMS: <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/353131287376916?p=6jBdh7cUoHgjj8MME4>

Abstract

There has been extremely rapid transformation of agrifood supply chains in Asia, Latin America, and Africa in the past 2 decades. I will first discuss the suddenness and enormity and surprises relative to conventional wisdom of that transformation in terms of the drivers and trends in change in structure, conduct, and product cycle phase (from commoditization to product differentiation) of the agrifood system, encompassing output supply chains including downstream segments like retail and e-commerce, and midstream segments like wholesale and processing), input supply chains (including the rapid rise of outsource agricultural services), lateral services (including the boom in and extreme importance of third party logistics), and research/innovation supply chains like crop and animal breeding supply chains. While trade has played a role, the great majority of the transformation has been in domestic and intra-regional supply chains, and the agents of change have been both modern large firms but also huge numbers of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The farm sector has transformed rapidly in co-evolution with these supply chains and farmers have found great opportunities for new markets and inclusion but also challenges of exclusion. I will discuss the strategies the farm sector has used, such as cooperatives and clusters, and symbiotic sectors like the breeding sector and the outsource agricultural services sector, have used to help farms to adapt to the rapid agrifood system transformation. I will illustrate successes and dynamism but also discuss cases of failure and discuss the reasons for it. I will end with reflections on development strategies and policy approaches.

About the speaker

Professor Thomas A. Reardon is a leading agricultural and food economist with over 40 years of research experience in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. His work focuses on food value chains, agricultural transformation, rural nonfarm employment, income diversification, and changing consumption patterns. He coined and advanced the concepts of the "Hidden Middle" in food value chains and the "Supermarket Revolution." His research examines how agrifood system transformations affect farms, consumers, employment, climate and agricultural sustainability, energy use, and food industry strategies. He is among the most highly cited scholars in agricultural and food economics, with over 54,000 Google Scholar citations, an h-index of 106 and an i10-index of 348 as of March 2026. His distinctions include Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and Honorary Lifetime Member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Materials and profiles

[MSU Video | Thomas Reardon | University Distinguished Professor | PBS](#)

[Thomas A. Reardon - ScienceDirect author profile](#)

[Thomas A. Reardon - Google Scholar profile](#)