

Title: Does migration matter?: The impacts on elders' food and nutrition security in rural China

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Dramatic economic development in China is associated with increasing rural-urban migration in the past decades. Since most elders were left behind in rural hometowns, what is not yet clear is, the family members' migration impact on their food and nutrition security. Using panel data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey between 2000 and 2011, the significance of our results highlights some degree of improvement in elders' food quantity, but not overall diversity. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first conducted in China to explore these impacts, specifically on rural elders. This adds to the growing body of research that indicates the underlying impacts of migration on the Chinese elders' physical and mental health. Moreover, while previous studies demonstrated mixed effects of international remittances on household food security, the findings offer some critical insights into understanding the effects differ from dietary quantity to quality.

Biography

Min-Fang Wei is a PhD student of the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests are development economics and food security. Prior to entering the program, she worked in the Taiwanese Government as a policy analyst for more than four years.

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Session name/ number: Food Security and its Nutritional Impact
Category: Oral presentation