**Call for Papers**

**Special Issue on Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces**

**World Development**

Guest Editors:

Christopher B. Barrett

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**Background**

Sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly urbanizing and experiencing accelerated economic growth. Yet the number of people living in extreme poverty remains distressingly high. Moreover, growing empirical evidence on poverty traps suggests persistence in extreme poverty, especially among those living in rural areas and working in agriculture. Harnessing the gains from growth and development for the alleviation of rural poverty requires boosting the productivity of land, labor, and other agricultural inputs through improved technology adoption and the elimination of factors that constrain investment, the efficient use of resources, and risk mitigation. Recently available household- and individual-level data sources, such as the Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture [(LSMS-ISA)](http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTLSMS/0,,contentMDK:21610833~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:3358997,00.html), present new possibilities to understand the opportunities and constraints facing rural households and learn from recent experiences. New micro-level insights based on rigorous research using high quality data can guide the emerging macro-level policy discourse around the structural transformation of African economies, and especially of African agriculture and the continent’s rural spaces.

**Special Issue**

Cornell University, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), and the World Bank, invites the submission of papers to be considered for publication in a special issue of World Development. The special issue is being organized in coordination with a conference on Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces, to be held on **December 4-5, 2015** in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. Papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in the special issue. In addition to the work featured at the STAARS conference, the editorial committee seeks high quality papers on related topics that might also be included in the special issue.

The organizers invite submissions from all areas of work related to the micro-foundations of structural transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa, including but not limited to: agricultural productivity and innovation, technology adoption, labor productivity, factor market performance, non-farm diversification and labor re-allocation, human capital investment and dynamics, financing and risk management, market access, and related fields of policy-relevant inquiry. A common denominator will be empirical analysis based on high quality, publicly available panel data sets from sub-Saharan Africa. Papers authored by African scholars are particularly encouraged.

All submissions, including those submitted to the STAARS conference and those submitted independently, will be peer-reviewed through a review coordinated by the guest editors.

Published papers will be expected to follow the formatting standards of World Development at the time of publication. Formatting instructions including length requirements can be found online [here](http://www.elsevier.com/journals/world-development/0305-750X/guide-for-authors).

**Submission Instructions**

Full draft papers should be submitted by **March 1, 2016** via \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Acceptance decisions will be communicated by May 15, 2016. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Christian at [staars@cornell.edu](mailto:staars@cornell.edu).

**Organizing and Editorial Committee**

Prof. Chris Barrett, Cornell University

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Dr. Paul Christian, Cornell University