

WILLARD W. COCHRANE LECTURE

in Public Policy



Christopher Barrett

Deputy Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs
Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
Cornell University

The Uneven Transformation of Rural Africa: Myths, Facts and Pressing Needs

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

2:00 pm, reception immediately following

105 Cargill Building for Microbial & Plant Genomics

Socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth in Africa, the world's poorest and most agrarian continent, requires and will inevitably bring structural change. This lecture explores the uneven transformation of rural Africa, its agricultural systems, and markets. In presenting current empirical evidence from a range of countries, we highlight the rapid changes taking place in some areas, as well as the stasis and poverty traps affecting others. Some of the best available evidence challenges conventional wisdom around labor markets, modern agricultural input use, smallholder farmer efficiency and productivity, and the functioning of food, labor, and land markets.

Christopher Barrett is Deputy Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs of the College of Business, Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and International Professor of Agriculture at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, as well as Professor in the Department of Economics and Fellow of the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, all at Cornell University. He has over 300 publications and his research has been cited more than 25,000 times. He served as editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and currently edits the Palgrave Macmillan book series *Agricultural Economics and Food Policy*. He has won several awards for teaching, research and public outreach, and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and the African Association of Agricultural Economists. This semester he is a Visiting Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard University Center for the Environment.

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