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Fragility of cooperation in a globalizing world

Abstract: Small holder agricultural systems, strongly dependent on water resources and investments in public goods, make a significant contribution to food security in developing countries. These communities are increasingly integrated in the global economy and exposed to new global climate-related risks. We performed field experiments on public goods with private and collective risks in 118 small-scale rice producing communities in four countries. Our results indicate that increasing integration of those communities with the broader economic system is associated with lower investments in public goods when facing collective risks. These results suggest that food security may be negatively affected by globalization and climate change.