
Abstract

The Changing Faces and Roles of Communist Party Membership in China: An Empirical Analysis Focused on Determinants of Job Choice, Promotion, and Earnings in the Labor Market from 1988 to 2002

Shanping Yan

In this paper, we analyze how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has changed by using micro-data from three nationwide surveys. We examine how party membership affects people's choice of employment, occupational attainment, and determinants of earnings, while considering changes in the function of individual attributes and human capital. We cover both urban and rural areas and gain a dynamic understanding of this topic. The proportion of people who joined the CCP as they grew older was relatively stable in the three surveys, whereas the overall level of education of party members has increased rapidly over time. Party membership and education have a statistically significant and positive effect on choosing non-farm employment and earnings, though those effects are decreasing rapidly over time in rural China. In contrast, party membership and education are exerting an increasing effect on employment choice, occupational attainment, and earnings in urban China. Furthermore, in both rural and urban areas, the rate of return to education and the earnings premium for CCP membership are converging on the same level. This is evidence that labor markets throughout the country are becoming integrated.

Abstract

Regional Differences in Acceptance of Change in the Land Tenure System in Mexico

Hiroyuki Tani

In Mexico, the land tenure system introduced after the Revolution underwent a drastic change in 1992. The change aimed to stimulate investment in agricultural land and production facilities by ensuring property rights and promoting the transfer of property or usufruct rights among land-owners and producers. It was expected that the changes would encourage an increase in investment and fill the Mexican rural sector with larger-scale, more productive producers. However, agrarian land transfers have been very limited. Land lease transactions have occurred more often, but with a regional bias: more transactions have occurred in the north (Aridoamerican region) than in the center and the south (Mesoamerican region) of the country. This article shows that this regional difference reflects the different ways in which land and farming are conceptualized historically in each of these regions. For instance, in the Mesoamerican region, which has a higher share of indigenous people in its population, farm land is considered to be more than “goods” as used in economics. In contrast, in the Aridoamerican region, which was colonized and built by latecomers, agricultural land is viewed mainly as a factor of production. These different ways of conceptualizing the land and farming create different behaviors in the regions’ dominant rural dwellers. While Mesoamerican peasants combine subsistence farming with non-farm earnings, Aridoamerican productive producers are eager to be more efficient, renting land from their less productive neighbors.

Abstract

Relationship between Forms of Oil Palm Cultivation and Systems of Land Ownership in Colombia

Yuichi Sendai

Agribusiness, such as cultivation of the oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis*, is developing in vast areas of Colombia. However, the extent to which legislation, including that governing land ownership, is rooted in society differs depending on the region. Using the example of three regions with different levels of legislative development, this paper discusses the relationship between legislative development and forms of oil palm cultivation. Group interviews were conducted with various actors, like oil palm producers' associations, companies, small-scale palm oil producers, and NGOs promoting oil palm cultivation for social development, and data from those interviews were analyzed. In the region where legislation is vague and not properly implemented, companies own little land. In another region, where legislation is established, companies own more land. As labor regulations and other forms of general legislation develop, large-scale acquisition of land by companies tends to be hampered. This paper hypothesizes that there is an inverted U-shaped correlation between the level of development of systems of land ownership and the extent of corporate acquisition of land.