

## **RTG Research Colloquium**

Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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Present

### **“Trade, food security and nutrition: A systematic review on farmers’ and workers’ participation in global value chains”**

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#### **Abstract**

The impact of trade on food security and nutrition remains strongly debated, especially for poorer countries and vulnerable people. Many of these countries actively promote agrifood exports, with millions of smallholders and workers involved. While many studies have investigated the impact of participation in global agrifood value chains on food security and nutrition, a systematic review that synthesizes the research findings in a transparent way is missing. Here, we address this research gap by conducting a systematic review following PRISMA guidelines. We find that most studies demonstrate positive effects, but the results are highly context-dependent. Effects vary across regions and traded products, and largely depend on the governance of farmers’ and workers’ participation in global value chains. More studies are required that focus on high-value produce, and on nutritional effects. Our results contribute to broader development debates on trade and health, on the overall welfare effects of global value chains, and on agricultural commercialization and off-farm employment diversification.