

ABSTRACT

Regional Differences and Food Consumption Behavior in East Africa: The Case of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania

by

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This paper will use cross-country data to analyze consumption patterns in 3 East African Community countries. The study will analyze the EAC food consumption patterns taking into account country and regional differences. The study will utilize information on regional prices, household income, household size and its composition to explain differences in food consumption in the region. The Almost Ideal Demand System (AIDS), which is a quite flexible framework for estimating consumption structures will be tested econometrically for 9 food groups (see appendix 1) in a cross-country analysis. The data is from the 1997 Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS) data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in Kenya, the 1996/1997 Uganda National Household Budget Survey (NHS) data from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), and the 1999/2000 household Budget Survey (HBS) data from Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are used. The results are expected to show a large proportion of variation in consumption patterns in the three countries, which can be explained, by household income levels, prices, and tastes and preferences.

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