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Title of Entry	: Assessing Market Power in the Bangladesh Rice Supply Chain
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	<p>: The objective of this study is to estimate the degree of market power in the Bangladesh rice supply chain. The paper focuses on the on-going problem of increasing rice price in the retail level whereas farmers are not getting the satisfactory value of paddy. The study respects the price spread along the rice supply chain in order to select the actors to be considered whether applying market power. This study used the Stochastic Frontier approach (Khumbhakar, Baardsen, and Lien, 2012) of estimating markup, market power, return to scale, and Lerner index. The cross-sectional data has been collected through a structured interview with rice millers and wholesalers in the seven different major rice markets of Bangladesh. The empirical results reveal that on average, rice millers charge about 55% above the marginal processing costs and the wholesalers charge about 49% above the marginal business operational costs. The positive value of the Lerner index confirms the non-competitive behavior of the rice market with the presence of market power. The rice millers are the key actors wielding a large amount of market power in the supply chain. Millers cartels and the collusive actions of millers and wholesalers create high market power in the rice value chain. It is known that a little market power practice can turn into substantial welfare effects whereas the Bangladesh rice supply chain is seriously affected by high market power. For the welfare of rice producers and consumers, the government may impose policies to mitigate market power along the rice supply chain. The findings of this study may help the policymakers to get the strict points of intervention for a better management of rice supply chain in Bangladesh. The provision of incentives to increase competition in the market and antitrust laws are plausible solutions to reduce market power.</p>

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