

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES PROGRAMME WEBINAR

### Webinar Series 2020-2021: Financial Transformation, Credit Markets and Household Debt in Southeast Asia

#### Exploring Differences in Rural Household Debt between Thailand and Vietnam: Economic Environment versus Household Characteristics

Date : Monday, 15 March 2021

Time : 4.00 pm – 5.15 pm (Singapore time)

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#### About the Webinar

Rural financial markets have grown rapidly in Asian emerging market economies, thus contributing to economic development and the reduction of poverty. At the same time, however, the level of indebtedness of rural households has increased, making households more vulnerable to shocks. This study aims to explore cross-country differences in credit market participation, level of household debt holding and over-indebtedness between rural households in Thailand and Vietnam. Using a unique rural household survey data from “Vulnerability in Southeast Asia” project, it first identifies socio-economic determinants of such market outcomes for rural households in Thailand and Vietnam. It decomposes differences into a part that arise due to configuration of household characteristics or a part that arise due to differences in economic environments using three decomposition methods. Significant differences are observed in credit market participation rates and level of debt holding and indebtedness between rural households in Thailand and Vietnam which are mainly explained by differences in credit market conditions between the two countries.

#### About the Speaker



**Bezawit Beyene Chichaibelu** is a senior researcher at the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn. She was a postdoctoral research at the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) (2017-2019). She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the Leibniz University of Hannover in 2017. She specializes in Agricultural economics and rural development, with an emphasis on issues such as food and nutrition security, household resilience, rural finance, digitalization, youth employment and policy analysis. She teaches a graduate course such as microeconomic theory. Her latest publication includes ‘Over-indebtedness and its persistence in rural

households in Thailand and Vietnam’. She is currently working on assessing the implementation of SDG 2, the financial needs to achieve zero hunger by 2030 and the developments with special reference to G7 Commitments.