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**SPECIAL RELEASE**

Department of  
Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics

23 January 2012

Michigan State University

Michigan State University's Food Security Group is pleased to share with you the following papers:

[Unpacking the Meaning of "Market Access"](#). Jordan Chamberlin and Thomas S. Jayne. Staff Paper 2011-10. Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics. Michigan State University. July 2011.

[Zambian Farmers' Access to Maize Markets](#). Antony Chapoto and T.S. Jayne. FSRP Working Paper No. 57. Food Security Research Project. Lusaka, Zambia. September 2011.

African farmers' market access conditions are often asserted and rarely measured. These studies are motivated by the need for improved analytical techniques for measuring market access and for providing policy makers with up-to-date assessments of farmers' market access conditions. Through statistical analysis of farm survey data in Kenya and Zambia, the studies show that commonly used indicators of market access are not highly correlated and conclude that there are considerable differences in the patterns of change across time, space, and indicator type. We find that farmers' distance to towns, a typical conventional measure of remoteness, bears almost no statistical relationship to the distance traveled by farmers to sell maize, the price received by farmers, or the number of traders servicing the village. Most farmers in both countries sell their maize to traders on their farms regardless of their distance to the nearest district town. The articles recommend a broader thinking of the meaning of market access and how to measure it.

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