INFORMATION AND THE FOOD SYSTEM

- Food System Coordination as an Information Problem
- Rationale for Public Investment in Market Information
- Collecting, Analyzing & Disseminating Market Information: MIS Design
- Measuring Quality: Grades and Standards

Food System Coordination as an Information Problem

- Impact of Information on:
  - Structure of incentives
    - Principal-Agent Problem
    - Pricing Efficiency & Grades and Standards
    - Choice of Governance Structures
  - Who owns information? Who should?
Rationale for Public Investment in Market Information

- Will the Market Solve the Information Problem on its Own?
  - Characteristics of (some) information:
    - Indivisibility
    - Uncertainty
    - Nonappropriability
  - How is this changing in an era of NITC?
- Aims of Public MIS
- Role of Private Information Systems in an era of NITC

Collecting, Analyzing & Disseminating Market Information: MIS Design

- How much to invest in information?
- What clients to serve?
- Identifying clients’ info. Needs
- Market data collection: sampling vs. non-sampling errors & the value of information
- Analysis and implications
- Implications for MIS design
Measuring Quality: Grades & Standards

- Role of grades & standards
- Public vs. private grades & standards
- Establishing grades and standards: whose interests get counted?