UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA TRANSPORT INSTITUTE
SPEAKERS’ SERIES

IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF CROP STRAW UTILIZATION IN CHINA THROUGH AN ECOLOGICAL-ECONOMIC MODEL

Dr. Hairong HUANG
Department of International Trade, School of Economics and Management, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, China

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Abstract: China is a major agricultural country with the world’s largest volume of crop straws being produced. However, considerable surplus crop straws have been arbitrarily discarded or burned annually. Such improper dispositions have not only led to substantial economic loss but also generated negative environmental hazards. Hence, there is an urgency to develop methods to study and improve the economic and environmental benefits of crop straw utilization, as it is now a top priority in the Chinese government’s agricultural management and policies. Understanding such, the study develops an ecological-economic model to analyze the benefits of utilizing crop straws in the mushroom production based in Zhejiang Guangcheng Biology Corporation that produces edible mushroom. The model is modified so as to simulate the practical situations by using data from the company. Also, specific changes are made to set scenarios to analyze how the company’s revenue changes and compare it with the actual situation. The modeled results suggest that the scale of production, the price of the raw materials, and the cost expansion of the electric and water pose certain influences on the revenues. Moreover, constructive suggestions are generated to policymakers on the appropriate way to deal with agricultural crop straws economically and ecologically.

Speaker’s Biography: Dr. Hairong Huang is an associate professor at the Department of International Trade at the School of Economics and Management at the Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, China. Currently, she is also a visiting scholar at the Transport Institute and Department of Supply Chain Management at the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba, Canada. Her research interests include industrial economics, industrial clusters, and regional economics, natural resources and environmental economics. Her current areas of research focus on resource utilization, policy, and management of waste treatment and ecological-economic model.

For further enquiries, please contact: umti@umanitoba.ca

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