



Jiang, Yuansheng

Health Insurance Demand and Health Risk Management in Rural China

Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2004. XVII, 205 pp., num. fig. and tables
Development Economics and Policy . Bd. 41

Herausgegeben von Heidhues Franz / von Braun Joachim

ISBN 3-631-52624-5 / US-ISBN 0-8204-7312-X pb.

SFR 62.00 / €* 42.50 / €** 39.70 / £ 28.00 / US-\$ 47.95

Good health is widely believed to be intimately associated with economic growth and development. A number of governments of developing countries have been combating poverty and boosting development through providing adequate access to health care. However, developing countries have been constrained by the limited governmental revenue. Thus, additional resources should be mobilized through appropriate instruments. Health insurance is a highly practical instrument. However, health insurance in rural areas is problematic and the demand for private health insurance and community-based health insurance scheme is inadequate. Taking China as an example, this study estimates the demand for health insurance and analyzes the health risk management of rural households.

Contents: Identifying Determinants of Expanding Demand for Health Insurance – Ways of Establishing and Developing the Rural Cooperative Medical Scheme by Analyzing the Willingness of Rural Households to Pay – Risk Coping Strategies of Rural Households – The Extended Family.

The Author: Yuansheng Jiang received his M.Sc. degree in Agricultural Economics in Sichuan Agricultural University, China. He has been an associate professor in money and banking and agricultural economics at Sichuan Agricultural University. His areas of research interests include health economics, household economics, agricultural economics, development economics and poverty and gender issues. At the beginning of 2004, the author obtained his PhD from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn.

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Ex.:

Jiang, Yuansheng: **Health Insurance Demand and Health Risk Management in Rural China**

ISBN 3-631-52624-5

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Europäischer Verlag der Wissenschaften
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CH-2542 Pieterlen
Schweiz

