

Preface

Biofuel markets have grown since the early 2000s. This is due to the need to enhance energy security, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to promote agricultural/rural development. This growth has affected global agricultural commodity markets. The author has examined how biofuel policies have impacted the world agricultural commodity markets since 2002. When food prices hiked and biofuel markets expanded all over the world from 2006 to 2008, the discussion about biofuels and food security developed on a global level. The biofuel impact on food prices was discussed at the *G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit* in 2008 and the Food and Agricultural Organizations (FAO) *High-Level Conference on World Food Security* in 2008 and 2013. As one of the experts, the author has participated in these global discussions since 2006, and he has discussed whether biofuels are good or bad for food security with many specialists. It is this discussion which forms the main theme of this book.

In this book, the author conducts an economic analysis of the competition between biofuels and food security. Some chapters of this book are based on studies conducted by the author and his partners. It covers the global discussion on biofuels and food security, and the historical/current situation of biofuels and food security in Brazil, China, Japan, USA, EU, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and other countries. The author shows that not only feedstock of agricultural product-based biofuels, but also cellulose-based biofuels can compete with food-related demand and agricultural resources. The author examines whether this competition is good or bad for food security at global, national, sub-national and household levels. The biofuel and food security discussion is expected to continue in the future. The author hopes that this book can provide useful information for readers to help them understand the relationship between biofuels and food security. The views expressed in this book are those of the author and do not reflect the official view of the FAO.

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