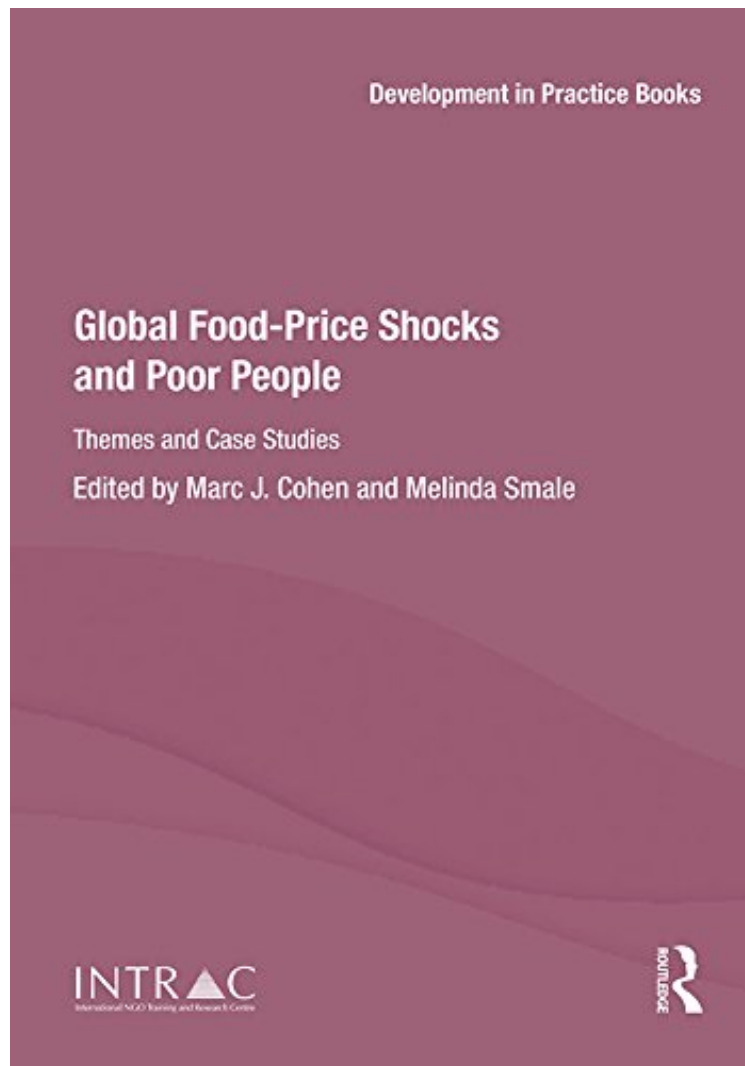


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This book examines the effects of high and volatile food prices during 2007-08 on low-income farmers and consumers

in developing, transition, and industrialized countries. Previous studies of this crisis have mostly used models to estimate the likely impacts. This volume includes actual evidence from the field as to how higher prices affected access to food and farm income among poor people. In addition to country and regional case studies, the book presents discussions of cross-cutting themes, including gender, risk management, violence, the importance of subsistence farming as a coping strategy, and the role of governments and markets in addressing higher prices. With 2011 witnessing an unprecedentedly high level of food prices, the findings and policy recommendations presented here should prove useful to both scholars and policy makers in understanding the causes and consequences, as well as the policies needed to ensure food security in light of the skyrocketing cost of food. This book was published as a special double issue of *Development in Practice*.

About the Author Marc J. Cohen is senior researcher on humanitarian policy and climate change at Oxfam America. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches a course on rural development and the world food crisis. Melinda Smale was a senior researcher at Oxfam America during the preparation of this special issue, and is currently a professor at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. Previously, she worked with several international agricultural research centres, where her research focused on crop biodiversity, the impacts of improved seed including biotechnology crops, and local seed markets.