

Editorial

It is a great pleasure to introduce the reader of International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics to its first Special Issue “Agricultural Policies in International Trade”. The Special Issue has had a great success: despite the limited number of contributions we could host, we have received abstracts from more than thirty colleagues. A stiff competition that has led us to consider for publication a selection of articles that have shown to be appealing for readers, scientifically well written, and in line with the theme of our Special Issue. Although it is reductive to synthesize the contributions of this articles in few lines, I am obliged to limit the space of this introduction and suggest the reader to refer to the entire articles for a better comprehension.

The leading article, by Frisvold and Reeves, offers a very valuable review of the open economy analyses of impacts of genetically modified crops. Their careful review of recent findings update the readers on the current debate on GM crops.

The vast majority of contributions provide policy implications on different aspects of international trade of agricultural products. Animashaun et al. explore the link between foreign direct investment and technological spillovers. Their findings suggest FDI should be encouraged at an early stage in order to promote outsourcing. Taghouti et al. analyze the implementation of a specific type of non-tariff measures that includes food safety concerns by the European Union in order to test whether previous food notifications influence current notifications. The hypothesis is rejected for Mediterranean Partner Countries, for which a Mediterranean bias in the way that food safety controls are implemented at the EU borders is not found. Pelloni et al. investigate the implications of the OECD support for agriculture on the headcount poverty rates of developing countries. They found that OECD agricultural policies worsened the poverty rates in some developing countries. De Pablo Valenciano et al. revise the EU banana’s import regime by comparing ex ante predictions and the ex post results. Their review is a valuable update on the so called “banana war”.

Last but not least, two contributions are worth mention for the methodological approach adopted. Batha and Groenewald study the impact of Southern Africa Common External Tariff on the economy of Lesotho using a Computable General Equilibrium model. Their interesting exercise allows to conclude that CET within South African Custom Union region will not benefit Lesotho and auspicate a tighter trade partnership with between Lesotho and foreign countries as catalyst for national economy. Collins and Chukwuemeka adopt a computable partial equilibrium model to assess the effects of Economic Partnership Agreements on Agricultural trade between Nigeria and the European Union. Their article show a net gain for Nigeria due to trade creation, and a positive welfare effect for consumers.

Thank to these precious contributions, the first Special Issue of IJFAEC is now completed.

The editor
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