

The Agricultural Economic Research Institute (LEI) has been a member of the GTAP consortium since November 1996. We use GTAP for a variety of research related to international trade in agri-food products. A summary of our activities over 2002/03:

Consortium related activities

Together with CPB and Erasmus University Rotterdam, LEI is organizing the 2003 conference in The Hague.

GTAP-EU network: One EU FP5 proposal on EUROMED agreements with participation from the network has been granted. Another one has been submitted to FP5. Johan Swinnen of CEPS, Brussels, is co-ordinator of both initiatives.

Hans van Meijl and Frank van Tongeren served as instructors on the 2002 GTAP short course in Sheffield. One LEI researcher is planning to attend the 2003 course. Hans van Meijl is again contributing as instructor to the 2003 short course.

People

We have expanded our GTAP team with Dr. Markus Lips, who has recently finished his PhD from ETH Zuerich. Dr. Claudia Herok has spent one post-doc year at LEI, and has left for new challenges. We now have four researchers with active GTAP involvement: Markus Lips, Hans van Meijl, Andrzej Tabeau, Frank van Tongeren.

Research involving GTAP in 2002/03

Policy research for The Netherlands

One major project on the Economic Benefits of the Doha round for the Netherlands, together with Joe Francois. This was carried out on behalf of the ministry of Economic Affairs. The paper feeds into the Dutch position in the WTO negotiations. At the national level, it has been discussed in parliament and in a stakeholder workshop (industry representatives and consumer groups). The paper has been disseminated and presented in the EC, at the OECD and the WTO. A derived paper is going to be presented at this year's GTAP conference. We have also continued our work for the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries Management. Specifically, we have made an assessment of the 'Harbinson proposal' for the agricultural negotiations in the WTO, and we are expecting to continue this work in 2003 (Fischler proposals). Some smaller projects on EU dairy reforms, sugar reform and intensive livestock made use of GTAP input.

EUROMED agreements

We have started work on EUROMED agreements, in the framework of an EU thematic network led by Jo Swinnen.

In-house model developments

Our in-house model developments have concentrated on: modelling returns to scale and imperfect competition, creating recursive projections, further refinements of EU CAP.

PROFETAS

A large multi-disciplinary project that studies the possibilities of protein crops as substitute for animal proteins in the human diet has been finalized. Our part in this project is to look into the international trade implications. This project is funded by the Dutch Organisation for the advancement of Research (NWO).

China's food economy in the early 21st century

(financed by Dutch Ministry of Agriculture). Partner: CCAP of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Jikun Huang). This project started in October 1999 and is in its closing phase. Final policy workshop in China has been held in January 2003.

WTO and Bangladesh

Joint work with IFPRI. Funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs and DIFID (UK). This continues until fall 2003. Centerpieces of research are the MFA/ATC, regional integration (SAFTA), WTO issues. All related to poverty. There is a great interest in Bangladesh to get involved in GTAP. Two BIDS scholars have attended the 2003 short course.

Databases

Our TSA-express software makes trade time series from various sources easily accessible. It now contains a GTAP version 5 commodity concordance that allows GTAP aggregations of ITC (PCTAS) data (SITC rev3 5-digit level) at the click of the mouse. Other features include user-defined country and commodity groupings, times series, and trade portfolio analysis. This has been presented at the Taipeh conference.

Baseline Dutch agriculture

A large LEI-internal project to develop a baseline projection for the Dutch agri-food complex. The project integrates PE models, econometric models, GTAP and expert information.

IPCC scenarios and Dutch agriculture

A project that translated the famous IPCC scenarios to agriculture on behalf of RIVM.

Proposal for an Asian short course in 2003

Last year, we submitted a proposal for an Asian short course, which was well received by the board. Alas, there have been no new developments on this issue.

Publications

Huang, Jikun, Ruifa Hu, Hans van Meijl, Frank van Tongeren, "*Impacts of Agricultural Biotechnology on China's Economy and World Trade*," Bulletin of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, No.6 (2002, November): 324-329. (in Chinese)

Hans van Meijl and Frank van Tongeren (2002), "*The Agenda 2000 CAP reform, world prices and URAA GATT-WTO export constraints*", European Review of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 29 (4) (2002) pp. 445-470.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and development (2002), "*The Medium-term impact of trade liberalisation in OECD countries on the food security of non-member countries*", Joint working party on agriculture and trade, Paris: OECD, COM/AGR/TD/WP(2001)74/FINAL.