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AGRICULTURE

1. Farid Farrokhi and Heitor S. Pellegrina

Trade, Technology, and Agricultural Productivity

Journal of Political Economy: Volume 131, Number 9, September 2023

We examine the contribution of trade to the rise of modern agriculture, taking into account interactions between trade, input requirements, and technology adoption. We develop and estimate a new multicountry general equilibrium model that incorporates producers' choices of which crops to produce and with which technologies at the level of grid cells covering the earth's surface. We find that trade cost reductions in agricultural inputs and the international transmission of productivity growth in the agricultural input sector since the 1980s induced large shifts from traditional, labor-intensive technologies to modern, input-intensive ones, with important global and distributional implications for productivity and welfare.

2. K Elumalai and Anjani Kumar

Role of Intensive and Extensive Margins in India's Agricultural Exports

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 36, 09 Sep, 2023

Increasing exports has been at the centre of policymaking for ensuring India's economic growth and development. An analysis of the relative contribution of intensive and extensive margins to growth in India's agricultural exports from 2001–20 reveals that the intensification of the export of existing products to existing destinations dominated export growth, whereas the contribution of export diversification has remained subdued. Broadly, the results indicate that India's exports along the extensive margin have not been fully exploited and that export diversification holds the key to higher export growth. There is a wide scope for expansion of India's agricultural exports through the development of new product varieties and markets.

ECONOMICS

3. Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Waheedullah Hemat

<u>Foreign Direct Investment, Trade Openness, and Economic Growth - An Empirical</u> Investigation of India EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 35, 02 Sep, 2023

Foreign direct investment has a positive and significant impact on economic growth

in the short run, whereas that of trade openness is both in the long and short run. The

economic growth of India is caused by FDI, trade openness, and exchange rate,

separately as well as together, in the short run. The findings advocate for measures

and regulations to manage FDI and prioritise human capital development, financial

sector enlargement, and trade expansion as well as improved trade policy reforms to

eliminate numerous trade restrictions to ensure sustained long-run economic growth

in the country.

4. P. J. Glandon, Ken Kuttner, Sandeep Mazumder and Caleb Stroup

Macroeconomic Research, Present and Past

Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 61, No. 3, September 2023

How is macroeconomic research conducted and what is it trying to accomplish? We

explore these questions using information gleaned from 1,894 articles published in

10 leading journals. The emphasis on quantitative, computation-intensive theory-

based analysis has grown over the past 40 years, while the use of econometric

methods to test economic hypotheses has diminished. Applied micro techniques and

micro data have displaced time series methods. Market imperfections are pervasive

and financial frictions have received increasing attention in the past 10 years. The

frequency with which non-macro JEL codes appear in macro articles indicates a

great deal of overlap between macroeconomics and other fields.

ENERGY

5. Wadhwa, Manjula

Renewable Energy: Making India self-sufficient

Kurukshetra: September 2023

Sustainable development is possible through the use of sustainable energy and by

ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for citizens.

Strong government support and an increasingly favourable economic situation have

pushed India to be one of the top leaders in the world's most attractive renewable

energy markets. The government has designed policies, programmes, and a liberal

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environment to attract foreign investments and ramp up the country's presence in

the renewable energy market at a rapid rate.

FINANCE/BANKING

6. Varshney, Kamlesh Chandra

Direct tax reforms

Yojana: September 2023

Tax policy reforms is a continuous process. There are various tax reforms and

administrative initiatives undertaken from time to time. There is always a time lag in

producing desired effect. Tax rate reductions in particular lead to a reduction in tax

collection in the short term. Hence, the success of tax reforms should be seen over a

period of time rather than analysing each year separately. Ease of doing business is

also one area where tax policies are required to continue to pay attention. It has

always been the effort of the Government to ensure easy compliance with tax laws

as part of its ease of doing business initiative.

7. Elias Albagli, Christian Hellwig and Aleh Tsyvinski

Imperfect Financial Markets and Investment Inefficiencies

American Economic Review: Vol. 113, No. 9, September 2023

We analyze the consequences of noisy information aggregation for investment.

Market imperfections create endogenous rents that cause overinvestment in upside

risks and underinvestment in downside risks. In partial equilibrium, these

inefficiencies are particularly severe if upside risks are coupled with easy scalability

of investment. In general equilibrium, the shareholders' collective attempts to boost

value of individual firms leads to a novel externality operating through price that

amplifies investment distortions with downside risks but offsets distortions with

upside risks.

HEALTH

Amit Kumar, Damodar Suar and Bimal Kishore Sahoo 8.

Moving from Food Insecurity to Food Security - Implementing NFSA in Bihar and

Haryana

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 36, 09 Sep, 2023

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The National Food Security Act, 2013 was enacted to facilitate equitable access to foodgrains in order to ensure sufficient nutrition for all. Post its implementation, despite the increase in availability and accessibility of foodgrains, a survey conducted among beneficiary households in Bihar and Haryana reveals that many do not get the recommended amount of foodgrains in the scheduled time, and more than 80% of the beneficiary and of non–beneficiary families suffer from calorie deficits. Corruption and malpractices such as black marketing need to be curbed to ensure effective implementation of the act and to achieve the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition.

9. M Dinesh Kumar, Saurabh Kumar, Nitin Bassi, Ajath Sanjeev, Sujit Raman

Investigating Interstate Variations in the COVID-19 Outcomes in India

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 38, 23 Sep, 2023

The variations in COVID-19 infections and deaths reported in Indian states as of 31 March 2021 have been analysed. While the proportion of people living in densely populated areas, per capita net state domestic product, and proportion of aged people explained the variations in COVID-19 infections, in the case of deaths, an additional contributing factor was identified in per capita public health infrastructure. The curious situation of income increasing COVID-19 transmissions and deaths could probably be explained by the considerable proportion of people in some high-income states living in congested slums under extreme poverty with poor access to basic infrastructure, and the high mobility and exposure of some of these states to domestic and international travel footprint, and large migrant population, all resulting in increased risks.

INDUSTRY

10. Arunlal K

Make in India's super star sectors and water management

Kurukshetra: September 2023

The make in India initiative six super star sectors – Automotive, Eletronics System Design and Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, Roads and Highways, Pharmaceuticals, and food Processing –are expected to boost India's economic

growth. Water, the primary, component of all development and increased

productivity of water are crucial to achieving the goals of make in India and making

them sustainable.

11. Mausam Kumar and M Suresh Babu

Challenges in the Return of Industrial Policy

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 37, 16 Sep, 2023

Industrial policy seems to be attempting a comeback to the centre stage of policy

discussions. In a given milieu of global economic conditions, it offers opportunities

for developing economies to restructure production. The challenges, however, are

multiple, necessitating a move away from conventional policy paradigms and

towards a set of forward-looking, futuristic elements.

POLICY

12. Timothy Besley, Torsten Persson

The Political Economics of Green Transitions

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 138, Issue 3, August 2023

Reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases may be almost impossible without a

green transition—a substantial transformation of consumption and production

patterns. To study such transitions, we propose a dynamic model, which differs from

the common approach in economics in two ways. First, consumption patterns reflect

not just changing prices and taxes, but changing values. Transitions of values and

technologies create a dynamic complementarity that can help or hinder a green

transition. Second, and unlike fictitious social planners, policy makers in democratic

societies cannot commit to future policy paths, as they are subject to regular

elections. We show that market failures and government failures can interact to

prevent a welfare-increasing green transition from materializing or make an ongoing

green transition too slow.

13. Sourav Mandal

Marriage Equality in India - A Road Map for Inclusive Lawyering, Activism, and

Policymaking

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 35, 02 Sep, 2023

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The ongoing hearings on marriage equality in the Supreme Court have not only raised some pertinent constitutional and human rights issues but also certain key questions, the answers to which will decide the future of LGBTIQ+ rights and activism in India. A report of the ongoing trial is presented in this article, and the potential judicial outcomes are analysed against the backdrop of the constitutional framework, the lived realities of LGBTIQ+ lives, and India's mainstream politics.

WAGES

14. Andria Smythe and Linchi Hsu

The Minimum Wage as a Tool for Racial Economic Justice

Journal of economic literature: Vol. 61, No. 3, September 2023

Participants at the 1963 civil rights march on Washington supported minimum wage laws using arguments of economic justice. Many economists at the time argued against the minimum wage based on efficiency concerns rooted in neoclassical theory. After decades of debate, where does the economics profession stand on the justice and efficiency claims of the minimum wage? We discuss the evolution of the minimum wage literature in economics, focusing on racial justice. We highlight recent empirical papers that overwhelmingly support the position of the marchers on Washington while at the same time showing little to no loss of economic efficiency.