Agriculture and Rural Development & DEC Seminar Series
Booklaunch

"The Political Economy of Agricultural Price Distortions"

Kym Anderson
George Gollin Professor Economics
University of Adelaide

Johan Swinnen
Professor of Development Economics
University of Leuven

Date: December 9 | Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm | Venue: MC-13-121

Light lunch will be available at noon for a meet and greet with the presenters
Formal presentation will begin promptly from 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Chair
Will Martin
Research Manager, DECAR

Discussant
Klaus Deininger
Lead Economist, DECAR

If you are World Bank Group Staff and wish to attend, please click [I WILL ATTEND].

If you are not Bank staff, please send an email to xhou1@worldbank.org to RSVP and request a guest pass.
The Political Economy of Agricultural Price Distortions

Despite numerous policy reforms since the 1980s, farm product prices remain heavily distorted in both high-income and developing countries. This book seeks to improve our understanding of why societies adopted these policies, and why some but not other countries have undertaken reforms. Drawing on recent developments in political economy theories and in the generation of empirical measures of the extent of price distortions, the present volume provides both analytical narratives of the historical origins of agricultural protectionism in various parts of the world and a set of political econometric analyses aimed at explaining the patterns of distortions that have emerged over the past five decades. These new studies shed much light on the forces affecting incentives and those facing farmers in the course of national and global economic and political development. They also show how those distortions might change in the future.

**Kym Anderson**

Kym Anderson is the George Gollin Professor of Economics and formerly foundation Executive Director of the Centre for International Economic Studies at the University of Adelaide. He has been a consultant to numerous national and international bureaucracies, business organizations and corporations. He is a Research Fellow of Europe's London-based Center for Economic Policy Research, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and a Distinguished Fellow of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. He has served on several dispute settlement and arbitration panels at the World Trade Organization since 1996, and served as President of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society.

**Jo Swinnen**

Jo Swinnen is Professor of Economics and Director of the LICOS-Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance, a Centre of Excellence at the University of Leuven (KUL). He is also Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels, where he directs the programme on EU agricultural and rural policy. He was previously Lead Economist at the World Bank and Economic Advisor at the European Commission. He consults for the OECD, FAO, EBRD, UNDP, IFAD, and to several Governments and was coordinator of several international research networks on food policy, institutional reforms, and economic development. He is President—Elec of the International Association of Agricultural Economists and a Fellow of the European Association of Agricultural Economists. He holds a Ph.D from Cornell University. His latest books are “The Perfect Storm: The Political Economy of the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy” (CEPS), “Global Supply Chains, Standards, and the Poor” (CABI), “Distortions to Agricultural Incentives in the Transition Economies of Europe and Central Asia” (World Bank Publications), and “From Marx and Mao to the Market” (Oxford University Press -- and Chinese translation by Beijing University Press) and “Political Power and Economic Policy” (Cambridge Univ Press).
Will Martin

Will Martin is the Research Manager in the Rural Development Group. He obtained his first degrees from the University of Queensland and the Australian National University, and Masters and PhD degrees from Iowa State University. Before joining the World Bank, he worked as a researcher and manager at the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, and as a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian National University. He has published extensively on trade policy and developing countries, with a particular focus on the World Trade Organization and economic development; global trade reform in textiles and clothing; and agricultural trade reform. Quantitative analysis of trade policies is a particular interest. He has published widely using quantitative models such as the Global Trade Analysis Project, and has a particular interest in using detailed data to build up a complete picture of the effects of trade barriers on trade and welfare. He teaches frequently in World Bank training courses, and is manager of a number of large Bank research projects.

Klaus Deininger

Klaus Deininger is Lead Economist in the Development Research Group of the World Bank. His research focuses on inequality and its relationship to poverty reduction and growth; access to land, land markets, tenure, and land reform, and their impact on household welfare and agricultural productivity; political economy of rural development and decentralization: and capacity building for policy analysis and evaluation, in Africa, China, India, Latin America, and East Asia. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota and has published more than 50 articles and a number of books, including a recent major study on large scale land acquisition in developing countries.

This seminar series—jointly sponsored by the Agriculture and Rural Development Department (ARD) and the Rural Development Team in the Development Research Group (DECAR) aims to provide a forum for discussing issues of wide interest and importance to the policy and practice of rural development.

The series focuses on important policy questions where research can shed light and features speakers who have a deep knowledge of the issue at hand and can offer a presentation that is both accessible and illuminating.

The website link where you can find the presentations for the series.