

ABARE mainly uses its own model, GTEM, to estimate the responses of the global economy and the environment to various policy proposals. As the GTAP Data Base is the main component of the GTEM Data Base, several researchers at ABARE have been busy this year evaluating the quality of the final release of version 5 GTAP Data Base with a view to updating GTEM Data Base. The team found a number of problems that are likely to seriously alter the estimated impact of various policy reforms, particularly in agricultural policy. Some of these problems have been reported to the GTAP directorate and others still are being analyzed. A program is underway that aims to minimize these problems in the GTEM Data Base based on version 5 of GTAP Data Base.

While recognizing the complexity of the task involved in assembling a global Data Base of this scale, and appreciating the sincere hard work put in by the GTAP staff in this highly useful project, ABARE holds the view that now the time has arrived to think about the quality of the Data Base seriously. ABARE proposes that a checklist for quality assurance be developed for future releases of the Data Base.