The Danish Research Institute of Food Economics (FOI) is an independent research institute at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL) in Denmark. FOI is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a Director General.

The Institute is a newly merged institute between the former Danish Research Institute of Food Economics, (previously an independent applied research institute under the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries) and the Unit of Economics at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. The merged institute employs approximately 115 staff members. The researchers and academic staff bring to the Institute an array of disciplines and experience in general economics, agricultural and resource economics, agronomy as well as a wide range of statistical methods and applied research tools, including econometrics, co-integration techniques, and national and global general equilibrium models.

The academic staff undertakes both basic and applied economic research. Besides providing undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. programmes in agricultural economics, international and development economics, and environmental and resource economics, the mission of the institute is to contribute to a better understanding of the economic aspects of the production, consumption and marketing of agricultural and food products. This goal is to be achieved by conducting basic and applied economic research characterised by independence, quality and versatility and by disseminating the results hereof to interested parties, including consumers, farmers, the food industry, government and civil society at large.

The Institute has long-held experience in providing applied research based analyses to policy makers in Danish and foreign governments as well as International organisations, including the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics and Business Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, the European Commission, the World Bank and the OECD.

The Institute participates in a large number of international research projects. Among the most recent tasks has been to closely survey, analyse and discuss the economic effects of developed countries agricultural policies on developing countries, considering both existing policies and policy reform scenarios that reflect the ongoing WTO trade negotiations. Currently, the international research group is participating in a large international World Bank based research project concerning the ongoing Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations with particular focus on the issues of market access, domestic support and export competition.

The Institute is also currently investigating the issues of growth, trade and development from both a theoretical and empirical perspective with special attention given to the eradication of poverty in developing countries. Furthermore, FOI participates in a network of European agricultural and rural policy research institutes formed for the purpose of assessing the impact of regional, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements concluded by the European Union or currently under negotiations, including agreements under the WTO, EU enlargement, the Everything But Arms initiative, EuroMed and Mercosur.

All research reports, working papers, government reports, policy briefs etc. can be downloaded freely from the Institute’s web page www.foi.dk.
Research topics

Over the past year FOI research (of relevance for GTAP) has focused on:

- European enlargement: Policy issues and quantitative analysis.
- The WTO trade negotiations (research project with IFPRI)
- Regional and preferential trade agreements
- Further development of the dynamic CGE model for Denmark (Dynamic-AAGE)
- Use of Dynamic-AAGE for forecasting purposes and policy applications
- Economic modelling of organic farming: Data and modelling issues
- Theoretical and empirical investigations into the linkages between growth, trade and development
- Investigations into the importance of data assumptions in the modelling of the EU dairy policy regime

Recent publications (of GTAP relevance)

Year 2004


Nielsen, Chantal Pohl (2004) ”Regional Trade Links Strengthen After Cancún: Prying open developing country markets whilst protecting developed country interests”. Policy Brief no. 9, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics.


Danish Research Institute of Food Economics (2003) Policy Note on the Harbinson Draft in an African Perspective, Commissioned by COMESA, prepared by the Agricultural Policy Division of the Danish Research Institute of Food Economics.

Danish Research Institute of Food Economics (2003) Note on the Harbinson Draft Modalities in the WTO Agriculture Negotiations, prepared by the Agricultural Policy Division of the FOI.


Frandsen, Søren E. and Kim M. Lind (2003) Drafting the Future of Agricultural Trade, Policy Brief No. 6, prepared by the Agricultural Policy Division of the Danish Research Institute of Food Economics.


Jensen, Henning T. and Finn Tarp (2003) Trade Liberalisation and Spatial Inequality, Working Paper no. 03/03, FOI.


Nielsen, Chantal Pohl (2003) Regional and Preferential Trade Agreements, Report no. 155, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics.

