



Australian Government

**Australian Bureau of Agricultural and
Resource Economics and Sciences**

Agency Report to the Global Trade Analysis Project Advisory Board meeting

June 2011

Hom Pant

In the year 2010-11 we had some structural change in our organisation. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) merged with the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) to form the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). This has opened up new possibilities for scientists and economists to work together on questions such as climate change, its impacts and potential policy responses.

The global trade and environment model is one of the critical tools ABARES utilises in providing high quality policy advice to clients including government, and the GTAP database underpins such analysis.

In the current year ABARES benefitted from the GTAP database in completing the following two studies:

1. The implications of a bunker fuel charge on Australia's trade competitiveness and
2. Transition to emerging clean electricity technologies in Asia: a multi scenario analysis

ABARES has also made a move to the version 8, pre-release 2 of the GTAP database. Recent development of GTEM with the land use change and forestry module has been calibrated with the new database.

ABARES would very much like the inclusion of a land use database and a GHG database (covering combustion and non-combustion sources and CO₂ and non-CO₂ gases) into the core database, and a disaggregation of the forestry sector into planting and harvesting sectors so that the inclusion of land as an input to the forestry sector makes sense.