
The Economic Research Service (ERS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has contributed to and utilized the products of the Global Trade Analysis Project since its inception. This provides a short summary of recent and forthcoming activities.

Contributions to GTAP Products

Mark Gehlhar continues to contribute the bilateral trade and transport database for GTAP. Agapi Somwaru is providing the social accounting matrix of the U.S. for version 5 of the GTAP database. Roy Darwin, Kevin Ingram, John Sullivan, Wesley Nimon, and Vince Breneman are revising the land and water resources database used by the Future Agricultural Resources Model (FARM), a modified version of the first GTAP database and model, to be compatible with versions 4E and 5 of the GTAP database. The revised database will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Research Topics

ERS utilizes GTAP products to conduct research in three broad areas--world food security, agricultural trade agreements, and global change.

World Food Security

ERS is using GTAP to analyze the agricultural impacts of the recent increase in oil prices. Articles are expected before the end of the year. ERS is also investigating how technological advances in agriculture affect land use. This analysis is being conducted with a dynamic version of FARM constructed by Elena Ianchovichina. An article will be completed by the end of the year.

Agricultural Trade Agreements

ERS continues to evaluate the effects of trade liberalization on U.S. and world agriculture. A general assessment of international trade policies based in part on the GTAP database and model is currently under way. A publication will be forthcoming by the end of the year. Also, a new research project, Agricultural Trade and the Environment, has just been initiated. It will analyze how trade liberalization agreements affect the environment, how domestic environmental policies affect trade flows, and how international environmental agreements can mitigate trade-induced reductions in global environmental quality. ERS plans to conduct an initial evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas with revised versions of the FARM model by the end of the year.

Global Change

ERS has completed an analysis with FARM of how greenhouse gas emissions might affect U.S. agriculture in 2050. A report will be published that combines these results with the results of a recent analysis of how climate change mitigation policies might affect U.S. agriculture in the future.
Recent Publications

1. Monographs


2. Articles


3. Chapters in Edited Monographs


4. Unpublished Conference Papers


5. Manuscripts and Working Papers


