

AC Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria

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AC.1 Background

These tables were developed for a project and their construction is described in Taheripour et al. 2020.

AC.2 Data Sources

For Iraq, we use the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). For both Syria and Lebanon, we rely on their SAMs that have been estimated for 2007 and 2010, respectively. The staff of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) made these tables available to us.

AC.3 Data Processing

These three I-O tables are fairly aggregated: the table for Iraq has 14 sectors; the table for Syria has 19 sectors; and the table for Lebanon has 9 sectors. These sectoral aggregation schemes are not consistent with GTAP Data Base sectoral aggregation.

Thus, we first matched their agricultural and energy sectors with the FAO and International Energy Agency. Then we matched their sectoral aggregation with the GTAP standard aggregations using a representative I-O table that has been developed at the GTAP Center to guide the disaggregation and matching process.

The representative IO table is a master table that provides required coefficients to split an aggregated sector to several sectors using available data from other countries. This table, in combination with independent data, is used to accomplish the disaggregation process.

For example, the new I-O table for Iraq aggregates all crop activities under one single sector. To split this aggregated crop sector into several crop sectors, we need to know what crops are produced in Iraq. In addition, we need to know the value of each crop produced in this country. We got this information from the FAO database. In addition, we need to know the cost structure of new sectors, for agricultural sectors we use the Agricultural IO Tables developed with FAO data and for non-agricultural sectors we use the representative I-O table, which is based on the existing data from other countries.

References

Taheripour, Farzad et al. (2020). *Water in the Balance: The Economic Impacts of Climate Change and Water Scarcity in the Middle East*. Tech. rep. World Bank, Washington, D.C. © World Bank. License: CC BY 3.0 IGO. URL: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34498>.