

(Note: This is the extended abstract. A full paper will be uploaded soon)

# **Assessing sectoral impacts of agrifood emission targets under alternative SSPs with improved substantiation of food demand and globalization patterns**

## **Introduction**

The targets under the Paris Agreement are not expected to be achieved without significant increases in climate mitigation actions (Chan et al. 2022). The expected increases in global food demand alone could lead to a 0.5°C increase in global temperature by 2050 (Ivanovich et al. 2023), while at the same time it is mandatory for the agrifood sector to adopt measures to mitigate climate change. This need for mitigation efforts across countries generates uncertainties with respect to the developments of the global and regional agrifood systems. Future changes in socioeconomic and technological conditions will create further challenges and opportunities for agrifood sectors. In order to capture these potential future developments, model-based scenario-analysis is used in climate and economic research. To increase comparability across studies, researchers have built the Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) framework, which defines five scenarios that describe a large set of different potential socioeconomic futures (O'Neill et al. 2017; Riahi et al. 2017).

Most SSP-based analyses have focused on the global and economic climate systems. However, several researchers have studied SSPs in the context of agrifood systems. Some literature has developed SSP narratives for European (Mitter et al. 2019; 2020) or national (Lehtonen et al. 2021) agrifood systems. Multiple modeling teams have quantified the global and macro-regional developments of land use (Doelman et al. 2018), of food security (van Meijl et al. 2020) and of agricultural yields (van Zeist et al. 2020), under the five different SSPs. The vast majority of the literature simulating emission abatement scenarios compares these scenarios to one baseline often based on business-as-usual developments, or following the “middle-of-the-road” SSP2 (Frank et al. 2019; 2021; Jansson et al. 2023; Clora et al. 2021; Pérez-Domínguez et al. 2021). A smaller number of papers analyzes mitigation efforts using three different SSP baselines (SSP1-2-3) (Hasegawa et al. 2018; Fujimori et al. 2022), focusing mostly on food security impacts at the macro-regional and global level.

To our knowledge, no research has quantified alternative agrifood emissions abatement scenarios against the five SSP baselines. We improve this literature in four important aspects. First, we make use of a set of demand elasticities recently estimated specifically for each of the SSPs to form the food demand patterns embedded in the baseline of our analysis (Bouyssou, Clora, Jensen, Yu, 2023; Bouyssou, Jensen, and Yu, 2024). This allows us to better substantiate the SSPs beyond the income and population growth drivers. Second, we improve the globalization/trade policy assumptions used by previous literature in characterizing the SSPs, by applying the scenarios developed in Clora and Yu (2023), which can be matched 1-to-1 with the SSP narratives. Third, we introduce endogenous abatement technology adoptions in our model to capture their abatement potentials in responding elevated emission abatement ambitions. Finally, we assess three sets of agricultural emission reduction scenarios, ranging from a business-as-usual scenario without climate policy, a moderately ambitious scenario featuring a “plausible” emission trajectory developed from a bottom-up analysis by Jensbye and Yu (2023), and a more ambitious scenario connected to the Paris Agreement. In total, we assess 15 scenarios (i.e. each of the five SSPs substantiated with the aforementioned demand and globalization patterns interacting with three agricultural

emission settings). We do so by using a recursive dynamic computable general equilibrium (CGE) model. We analyze the impacts of the different assumptions in these 15 scenarios on global and regional agrifood production, trade flows and emissions, focusing on aggregate and key agrifood sectors such as livestock and animal food products.

### **Methods (model and data)**

To perform our analysis, we use an extended recursive dynamic version of the GTAP v7 model (Corong et al. 2017). This extension, among other features, allow for the implementation of different sectoral carbon prices (bundling in two separate groups the agrifood sectors and the rest of the economy) (Clora, Yu, and Corong 2023), models marginal abatement technology adoption in the agrifood sectors (Jensbye, Clora, and Yu 2023), and includes mechanisms to capture changes in consumer preferences in each SSP as driven by socioeconomic drivers (Bouyssou et al. 2023). The model is calibrated on a version of the GTAP-AGROFOOD v10 database (Britz 2022), merged with the GTAP-Power v10 database (Peters 2016). Additional key elasticities available in GTAP-AGROFOOD are adjusted using data from recent literature (Tabeau, Helming, and Philippidis 2017; Ivanic, Beckman, and J. Nava 2023; Akin-Olçum et al. 2022). The dataset is aggregated to represent key agrifood commodities, and key producing and consuming countries. The dataset is updated in one-year steps to recreate five SSP-based baselines towards 2050.

The five baselines are based on external SSP projections on population and labor force (Kc and Lutz 2017), GDP (Dellink et al. 2017), and saving rates (Fontagné, Perego, and Santoni 2022). Bilateral iceberg trade costs are also varying in each SSP, based on an estimated relation between per capita GDP and the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (Arvis et al. 2016). Commonly to all SSP baselines, we target exogenously differences in sectoral productivity growth (Bekkers et al. 2019) and non-agrifood emissions consistent with current policies (Keramidas et al. 2021), in addition to changes in energy efficiency. Five alternative globalization scenarios (Clora and Yu 2023), are mapped on the five different SSP storylines. As the focus of our analysis is on the agrifood sectors, crop yields, meat yields and milk yields are exogenously targeted (OECD and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2023). Different SSP trajectories for regional food household consumption and for parameters governing the income and price elasticities are included in the same fashion as Bouyssou et al. (2023). Historical changes in agricultural emission intensities not driven by carbon prices are targeted exogenously (Jensbye, Clora, and Yu 2022). In the baselines, agrifood emissions are endogenous.

Two agrifood climate change mitigation scenarios are developed and simulated against each of the baselines, based on recently developed region-specific emission targets (Jensbye and Yu 2023). A first pathway is based on 'moderate' climate action, whereas the second represents more 'aggressive' climate efforts.

### **Expected results**

The analysis will provide results about changing patterns in agrifood consumption and production, across SSPs and regional climate efforts. It will enrich the literature about future demand, trade, technological patterns in the agrifood sectors and the associated emission outcomes, particularly for the livestock and animal food products that are at the center of the debates on climate, trade, and food security.

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