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Norte

2011

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/37957/>
MPRA Paper No. 37957, posted 16 Apr 2012 15:55 UTC

Commodity Price Changes and Their Impacts on Poverty in Developing Countries: the Brazilian Case

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PRELIMINARY VERSION

SUBJECT TO CHANGES

Abstract

The objective of the paper is to provide an estimative of the impacts that changes in international prices of agricultural commodities will have on income distribution and poverty in Brazil. To do so, a Social Accounting Matrix is constructed and applied, using a Leontief Miyazawa type model framework. The SAM is defined for 40 products, being 17 raw agricultural products, 15 agricultural processed products, 3 industrial agricultural inputs, 2 other industrial products, trade, transport, and services. Households are allocated to 10 groups, being 6 agricultural (4 types of family farmers, commercial farmers, and agricultural labor), and 4 urban (income quartiles). Demand elasticities (price and income) for the products defined in the SAM are considered, as well as limitations on the supply of agricultural inputs. The knowledge of the possible impacts of changes in international commodity prices on income distribution and poverty is very important for policy design within developing countries. Given the estimated impacts on different groups of producers, different sorts of cushioning policies can be designed.

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1. Introduction

Producers and households in developing countries are affected by the prices of products involved in international transactions. The impacts of agricultural policy and structural reforms leading to changes in international prices of goods and services are expected to be differentiated across households and producers, depending on how they are involved in the circular flow of goods and services within the country of residence. As such, it might be expected that these reforms will affect income distribution and poverty levels within those countries. Considering the supply side, units producing commodities facing price increases in the international markets will benefit, since their product will become more valuable; those using imported inputs whose prices increased as a result of the structural reforms will lose. As for households, those working in sectors with increased international prices could experience income gains, and those working in other sectors could rest unaffected in terms of income. However, since some prices would rise, households not working for gaining sectors could suffer a decrease in real income. A general price increase could also result, thus affecting all sorts of households.

Therefore, structural reforms that can change international prices are expected to produce important changes in income distribution in all countries involved in international trade. Since the impacts will vary according to the role played by different agents in the production and distribution of national income, it is important to produce a detailed analysis of such impacts. The objective of the paper is to provide an estimate the impacts of changes in international prices of agricultural commodities on income distribution and poverty in Brazil, considering not only the first round (direct) effects but also their spillovers (indirect effects) across the circular flow of income. The introduction of the second and higher round effects is important, for the initial effects could either be mitigated or empowered by the indirect effects. The knowledge of such compounded effects is important in the design of alternative policies for cushioning the measured adverse impacts of reforms on poor people. It is possible that an increase in the price of a very important export product of a country does not necessarily benefit all households equally. As a matter of fact, some may be badly hurt, if the prices of products with high participation in their consumption basket increased as a result of the second and higher order effects in the national economy, and if they do not work in sectors benefited by the initial price increase.

The paper is organized in 6 sections, including this introduction. Section 2 presents details of the SAM and its sectoral disaggregation. The next section deals with the procedures used to solve the model. In section 4 we discuss the estimation of input supply restrictions and of demand elasticities. Examples of how the model can be used to estimate distributive impacts of price shocks are presented in section 5. Finally, in the last section the concluding remarks are presented.

2. Methodology and data sources

Given the study objectives, the SAM makes a distinction between the agricultural and nonagricultural activities and agents in the economy, and takes into consideration the relations that occur between them. At the same time, the SAM takes into consideration the relationships of agricultural and nonagricultural activities and agents with the rest of the world economy. The structure of SAM is described below, and is portrayed in Figures 1.A to 1.C. The first two columns show, among other elements, the inputs from agricultural and nonagricultural goods and agents that are needed to produce the agricultural and nonagricultural goods available in the economy (rows 1 and 2). Rows 3 and 4 show the destination of the agricultural and nonagricultural goods (columns 3 and 4). Rows 5 to 9 show how income generated by the domestic activities is allocated among factors of production, and columns 5 to 9 show how this income is allocated to institutions in the economy. Rows 10 to 14 show the different institutions, while the corresponding columns 10 to 14 show how this income is spent. Columns 15 and 16 show the composition of the total value imports, while rows 15 and 16 show the destination of imports. The composition of total value of exports is displayed in columns 17 and 18, which are allocated to the rest of the world, in rows 17 and 18. Rows 19 to 22 show the source of taxes received by government, while columns 19 to 22 show that these values are allocated directly to government row (row 14). The transactions with the rest of the world are displayed into row 23 and column 23. Accumulation is displayed into row 24 and column 24, while row 25 and column 25 represent the financial dummy that is used to make the final adjust, closing in this way the values for the SAM. It must be emphasized that the aggregate values are taken from the official National Accounts for the country, so that any row or column sum will provide the official figure for that case.

Previous applications of models of this type for the Brazilian economy can be found in Fonseca and Guilhoto (1987), and Guilhoto, Conceição, and Crocomo (1996). The input-output matrices released by the Brazilian Statistical Institute (IBGE) only take into consideration Agriculture as a whole and 7 food processing industries, of a total of 42 sectors. The most recent data released from IBGE refers to 1996; this matrix was constructed for the year 1999, following the methodology developed by Guilhoto and Sesso Filho (2004), based on Brazilian national accounting data. The SAM is defined for 40 products, being 17 raw agricultural products, 15 agricultural processed products, 3 industrial agricultural inputs, 2 other industrial products, trade, transport, and services

The agribusiness activities in Brazil accounted for around 27% of total national GDP in 1999, in spite of the fact that Brazil is a major world producer of several products. This reflects the fact that Brazil presents a large and diversified economy. Export-oriented sectors, such as coffee, sugar, and soybean, compete in the international market and are prone to be the first affected by different conditions in the world food market. On the other hand, sectors oriented towards the local market, such as rice, beans, manioc, beef, dairy, etc., will lead important internal distributional impacts in case of changes in world prices.

The definition of farm types is based on two different data sets: the Agricultural Census of 1996/97 and the Pesquisa Padrão de Vida (PPV) of 1996 (Living Standard Survey), both from IBGE. The first source is more comprehensive and allows for more information across states, farm sizes, technology, etc. The second source provides more information on household characteristics, consumption structures, etc. Our definition of household types is based on a study by the Ministry of Agrarian Reform/Incra and FAO, in which Brazilian farms were split into family and non-family based on size, use of hired labor, market orientation, income levels etc. Based on the objectives of this study, and on our analysis of characteristics of family and non-family farms, we have decided to work with four groups of family farms, and to deal with non-family farms as a group. Since consumption structures will come from different surveys, it is important to analyze the matching of those two in terms of general characteristics of farmers. Comparing the proportions of area, number of farms and number of people working in the different farm types, it can be seen that the distributions in the two data sets are quite similar. In other words, PPV consists of a good sample for the census results.

SAM for the Brazilian Model US\$ 1000			Domestic Activities		Domestic Products		Factors					
			Ag (9)	Nag (21)	Ag (17)	Nag (23)	Capital		Labor		Land	
			1	2	3	4	Ag (5)	Nag (4)	Ag (5)	Nag (4)	Ag (5)	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Domestic Activities	Ag (9)	1			62,127,877	4,844,981						
	Nag (21)	2			552,731	881,186,822						
Domestic Products	Ag (17)	3	10,165,181	30,128,912								
	Nag (23)	4	16,132,805	320,691,177								
Factors	Capital	Ag (5)	5	17,237,376								
		Nag (4)	6			238,338,511						
	Labor	Ag (5)	7	11,933,183	10,270,923							
		Nag (4)	8			188,973,748						
Land	Ag (5)	9	8,618,688									
Institutions	HH	Ag (6)	10			22,204,106						
		Nag (4)	11			188,973,748						
	Firms	Ag (9)	12			17,237,376		8,618,688				
		Nag (21)	13			238,338,511						
Government (1)	14											
Imports	Ag (17)	15	423,338	873,830								
	Nag (23)	16	1,918,550	41,128,275								
Exports	Ag (1)	17										
	Nag (1)	18										
Ind Taxes on Products	Ag (1)	19	252,035	595,801								
	Nag (1)	20	703,600	23,324,247								
Other Taxes	Ag (1)	21	1,571									
	Nag (1)	22			28,794,652							
Rest of the World (1)	23											
Accumulation (1)	24											
Financial Dummy (1)	25											
Totals	26	67,386,327	883,120,075	62,680,608	886,031,803	17,237,376	238,338,511	22,204,106	188,973,748	8,618,688		

Figure 1.A: Schematic View of the Brazilian SAM (Part 1 of 3)

SAM for the Brazilian Model US\$ 1000			Households		Firms		Gov (1)	Imports		Exports	
			Ag (6)	Nag (4)	Ag (9)	Nag (21)		Ag (17)	Nag (23)	Ag (1)	Nag (1)
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Domestic Activities	Ag (9)	1					413,469				
	Nag (21)	2					1,380,523				
Domestic Products	Ag (17)	3	3,888,010	10,550,602			0			1,703,642	
	Nag (23)	4	30,623,941	252,889,500			102,399,488				49,933,409
Factors	Capital	Ag (5)									
		Nag (4)									
	Labor	Ag (5)									
		Nag (4)									
Land	Ag (5)										
Institutions	HH	Ag (6)			15,370,156		8,617,840				
		Nag (4)				145,615,740	60,235,599				
	Firms	Ag (9)					1,822,974				
		Nag (21)					23,890,682				
Government (1)											
Imports	Ag (17)	15	71,707	190,988							
	Nag (23)	16	2,283,019	15,305,757							
Exports	Ag (1)	17									
	Nag (1)	18									
Ind Taxes on Products	Ag (1)	19	124,188	337,000				59,330		69,770	
	Nag (1)	20	1,950,161	16,104,238					8,116,803		3,472,323
Other Taxes	Ag (1)	21	4,025,760		1,713,245						
	Nag (1)	22		58,994,997		16,231,158					
Rest of the World (1)		23			1,635,143	15,491,222		1,805,352	61,649,636		
Accumulation (1)		24	3,225,316	40,452,006	6,791,997	64,346,886	-32,028,576				
Financial Dummy (1)		25			2,168,497	20,544,187					
Totals		26	46,192,102	394,825,087	27,679,038	262,229,193	166,732,000	1,864,683	69,766,440	1,773,412	53,405,733

Figure 1.B: Schematic View of the Brazilian SAM (Part 2 of 3)

SAM for the Brazilian Model US\$ 1000			Ind Taxes on Products		Other Taxes		ROW (1)	Acc. (1)	Financial Dummy (1)	Totals
			Ag (1)	Nag (1)	Ag (1)	Nag (1)				
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Domestic Activities	Ag (9)	1								67,386,327
	Nag (21)	2								883,120,075
Domestic Products	Ag (17)	3					6,244,262			62,680,608
	Nag (23)	4					90,648,798	22,712,684		886,031,803
Factors	Capital	Ag (5)	5							17,237,376
		Nag (4)	6							238,338,511
	Labor	Ag (5)	7							22,204,106
		Nag (4)	8							188,973,748
	Land	Ag (5)	9							8,618,688
Institutions	HH	Ag (6)	10							46,192,102
		Nag (4)	11							394,825,087
	Firms	Ag (9)	12							27,679,038
		Nag (21)	13							262,229,193
	Government (1)	14	1,455,063	55,515,554	5,740,576	104,020,807				166,732,000
Imports	Ag (17)	15					304,820			1,864,683
	Nag (23)	16					9,130,838			69,766,440
Exports	Ag (1)	17				1,773,412				1,773,412
	Nag (1)	18				53,405,733				53,405,733
Ind Taxes on Products	Ag (1)	19					16,939			1,455,063
	Nag (1)	20					1,844,182			55,515,554
Other Taxes	Ag (1)	21								5,740,576
	Nag (1)	22								104,020,807
Rest of the World (1)	23									80,581,354
Accumulation (1)	24					25,402,209				108,189,838
Financial Dummy (1)	25									22,712,684
Totals	26	1,455,063	55,515,554	5,740,576	104,020,807	80,581,354	108,189,838	22,712,684		

Figure 1.C: Schematic View of the Brazilian SAM (Part 3 of 3)

It was pointed out before that different sectors present different linkages within the production system, be it through technical relationships with other sectors, or through income generation and distribution, and, hence, through consumption, as a feed-back mechanism. Therefore, it is important to take into consideration how wages and value added are distributed to different groups of income. As an example, from all wage income received by the lowest income group, farm sectors are responsible for 20%, increasing to 24% in the next decile, and decreasing there on. For rich people, wages coming from farm producing sectors are less important. The participation of different income groups in food manufacturing sectors is quite different, with the very poor receiving a smaller portion of income from these sectors. This contrast in the two types of sectors producing food products illustrates the need to consider how different sectors can influence income distribution. It is also clear from the data that food directed to the consumption of the local population are more important in the income generation of poor people, both in terms of wages and value added. Soybean production is more important for employees and producers in the middle-income range. Therefore, a price shock in this sector tends to affect this group of households more intensively than poor households, at least in the first round of effects.

Since income is distributed differently across sectors, households associated to each sector are expected to have a different consumption structure. This is especially true when considering the differences in consumption between urban and rural families. Therefore, an important step towards constructing a SAM is the consideration of how families spend their income. The data sources for this part of the study are the 1987 and 1995/96 Household Expenditure Surveys developed by IBGE. For urban households, we use the household surveys of 1987 and 1995/96 (POF); we consider 4 groups of households, defined according to income levels. For rural households, we use the 1996 PPV. The five categories of farms presented before will be considered. Thus, we have consumption structures for 10 types of consumers, 6 rural (5 farmers, 1 employees), and 4 urban. The data show that poorer households spend a higher proportion of their income on agricultural raw food. As expected, rural households present more self-consumption than urban households, and the proportion decreases from family farms 1 through 4; urban households spend a larger share of their income with housing. In general, both housing and education expenditure shares rise from low-income households to high-income ones.

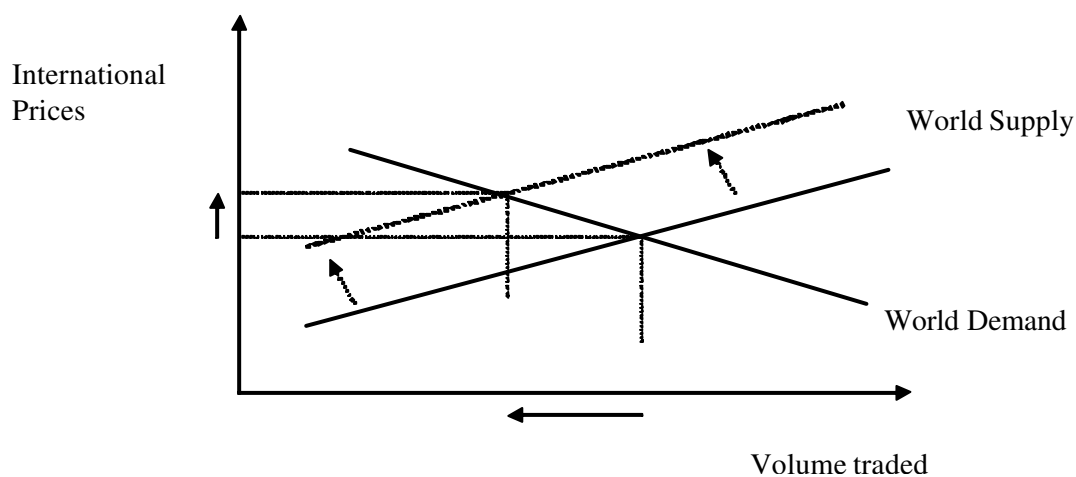
3. Solving the Model

The goal of this section is to describe the various relationships embedded in the model. Its solution considers reactions of consumers to price and income changes, and reactions of producers to input price changes. It does not include, however, substitution effects between products and sectors. It is structured in five stages, as described below. The sum of the results calculated in these stages, partially considering the reactions of agents to price and quantity stimuli, comes close to a full general equilibrium model. In Chapter 6, the results of the simulations using this SAM-based model are compared, in aggregate terms (global GDP, employment, price indexes, etc.) to a general equilibrium model which does not have the sectoral and product details of this study. It will be shown that the disaggregated results provided by the model estimated in this study are compatible, at the aggregate level, with the ones resulting from the CGE model. On the other hand, the model presented here provides details on the impacts across farm types that is impossible to achieve within that CGE model.

3.1. Model solution mechanics

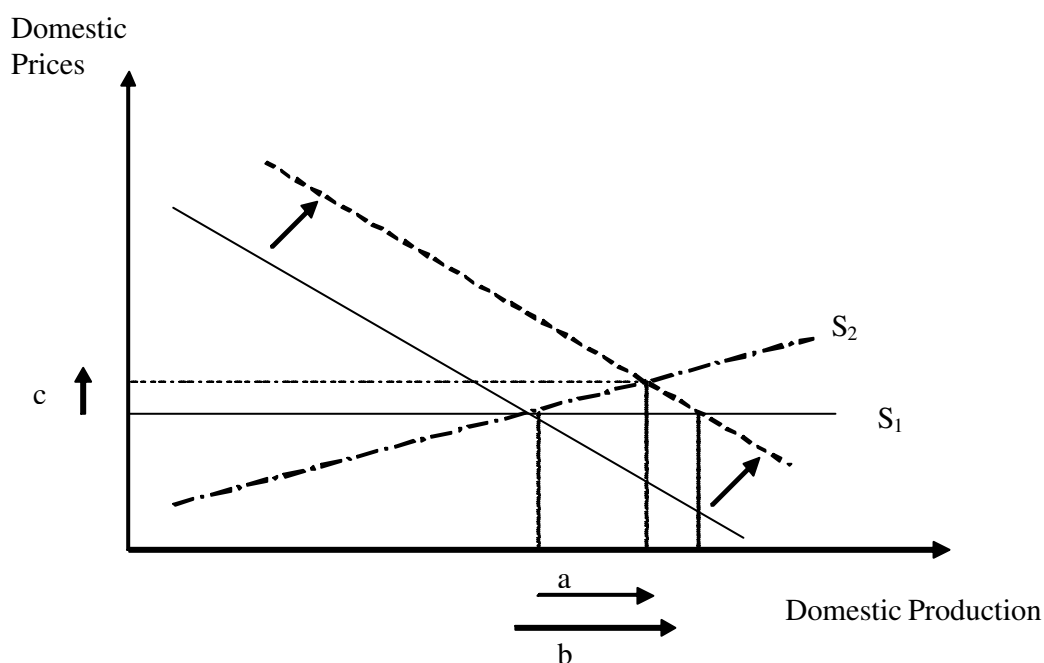
As a result of structural reforms in international trade, prices of commodities exported by the Brazilian economy are expected to change. It is expected that the international supply curve of protected commodities will shift upwards, leading to increases in international prices, as portrayed in Figure 3.1 below.

Figure 3.1 – Expected effects in the World Market



Some countries will be negatively affected by the changes, some countries positively. It is expected that the demand for Brazilian exports will increase, as portrayed in Figure 3.2 below. The effects on domestic prices will depend on the elasticity of domestic supply. In the case of a flat domestic supply curve, such as S_1 , there will be no increase in the domestic price of the commodity, and thus no reduction in domestic consumption, and total production will increase by the amount of exports (arrow b in the figure). In the most probable case of some price transmission to the domestic market, such as in the case of a positive slope supply curve such as S_2 , the domestic price is expected to increase (arrow c in the figure), leading to a reduction in the domestic consumption. Thus, the final increase in production will not be the full amount of exports, as before, but a smaller amount (arrow a in the figure). It will be equal to the increased amount of exports, less the decreased amount of domestic consumption (assuming this domestic price increase will not affect the country's competitiveness in the international market).

Figure 4.2 – Effects of a positive-sloped domestic supply



In order to estimate the impacts of this chain of events, the first stage of the model estimation simulates a situation in which the supply curve is such as S_i , that is, the whole increase in export volume is used to shock the model, ignoring any price increases. No restriction is imposed on the supply of inputs either. In other words, this stage simulates an increase in exported quantities at the previous price level. The results of this stage indicate the upper bound effect on national production, admitting that the additional production does not cause any price effect on the domestic market. Additional exports will be added to the previous production, imposing direct, indirect and induced effects on the system.

The price transmission from international to domestic prices considered is the one obtained from the resulting scenarios from OECD, i.e., results from the GTAP model. These estimates present expected international price changes as well as domestic price changes. This domestic price change for a product is supposed to spread to all prices in the economy through a Leontief-type price transmission mechanism. For example, an increase in the domestic price of soybeans will affect in the first place the prices of all sectors utilizing this product as an input, at fixed coefficients. In later stages, all prices will be affected in some way through the indirect effects generated by the original price increases.

The estimated domestic price changes will increase or decrease the production value of the specific product, depending on the price-elasticity of that product's demand. For a product with price-inelastic demand, which is the case of almost all food products, a domestic price increase will result in increased production value and income for that activity. In order to keep total income constant in the system, this extra income is transferred from all other sectors in the economy, whose incomes will fall proportionately to their participation in total production. Considering these changed incomes and the price changes, nominal and real income changes are calculated. Using estimated income-elasticities, the income changes will be transformed into production value changes, adding another element to the estimation. At this stage, still no factor supply restriction is imposed, that is, a flat supply curve is supposed.

So far two results have been obtained. The first indicates the maximum effect of increased exports without any restriction on the supply side of the economy. Price effects have been introduced in the second stage, indicating the negative impacts on economic activity of the estimated price increases. In the third stage these results are just summed-up, to come up to the net results, still ignoring input supply restrictions.

Increased production of goods means increased use of inputs. If goods are produced with flat cost curves, there would be no effect on prices from the supply side; if production faces positive sloped cost curves, some supply reactions are to be expected. A way to consider this effect is to estimate product supply elasticities and include these factors in the estimation of the impacts. However, data limitations made it impossible to do it this way. The alternative used was to estimate the expected increases in input prices as a consequence of increased production, and to spread these price increases to the economy with a Leontief-type price transmission mechanism. The same chain of income and price changes described in the second stage is estimated.

As a matter of fact, the estimated model is not exactly as portrayed in Figure 3.2, but the one displayed in Figure 3.3 below, which reproduces the demands for Brazilian goods, and the flat domestic supply curve S_1 from Figure 3.2. As input prices rise, production costs go up in all sectors using these inputs, and the flat domestic supply curve moves upward, to S_3 . This shift in supply affects the quantity transacted in the same way as the reactions of producers in the upward sloped supply curve displayed in Figure 3.2, but the quantitative effects might be different. Thus, although the choice of this methodology to introduce domestic supply responses was determined by data restrictions alone, the input supply limitations introduced via the Leontief-type price transmission mechanism partially takes care of the problem. Of course, the two alternatives most probably will lead to different quantitative results, but the direction of change is the same.

Finally, the fifth stage just consolidates the upper-bound effect of the first stage, the influence of price transmission, and the influence of input limitations, coming up with the net effects on the national economy. Figure 3.4 summarizes the mechanics of the model solution.

Figure 4.3
Effects on the domestic market with a Leontief-type price transmission mechanism

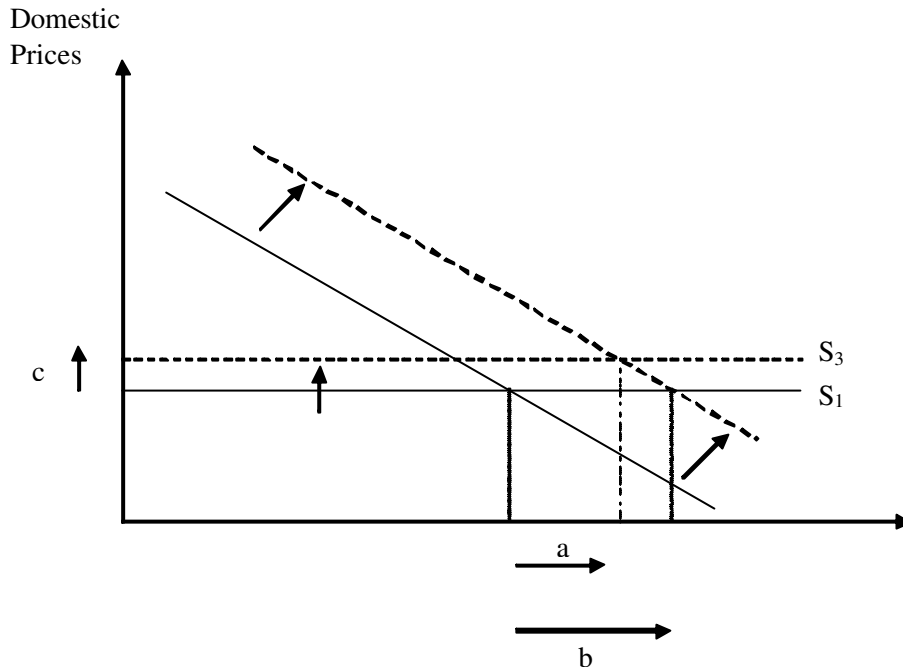
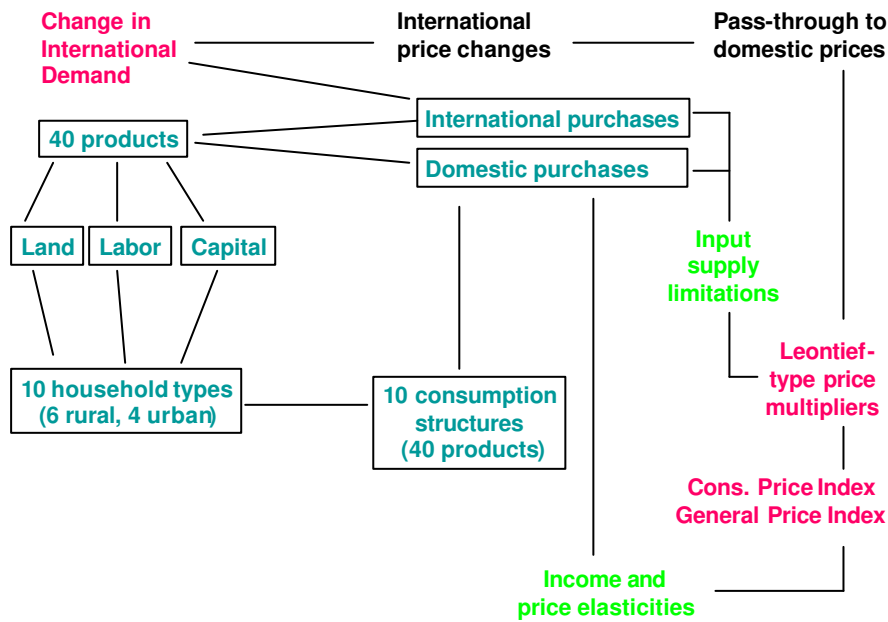


Figure 3.4 – Model solution schematics



4. Input supply and product demand elasticities

4.1. Input supply

According to the mechanism described above, input supply restrictions are incorporated in the Fourth Stage. Given the additional input demand calculated in Stage III, input price changes are estimated, based on estimates of input supply price elasticities. The overall effect of these price changes are considered in the economy as a whole, diminishing the restriction-free previous income estimates.

Land is abundant in Brazil. It is true that quality varies (location included in quality), but nevertheless one should bear in mind that, contrary to developed country cases, the supply of land should be more price-elastic in Brazil. The last available agricultural census, referring to the year 1995, revealed that less than 50 million hectares were cultivated. In this same year, the amount of idle productive⁷ area, including resting land, amounted to almost 25 million hectares. A study by Olivete et al (2002) indicates that the main supplier of area to production-expanding products in the last part of the 90s was natural pasture. The study also shows that the main area-demanding product is cultivated pasture: soybean demanded 2,165 million extra hectares, while cultivated pasture demanded 9,773 million. Adding to this supply of idle area, total pasture area in 1995 amounted to almost 178 million hectares. That is, at that time, expanding production could very easily use idle area without concerns with price increases, suggesting a flat land supply curve. In the year 2003, the amount of cultivated area grew to almost 57 million hectares, 14.5% higher than in 1995. This land use increase produced a 56.2% increase in the amount of production (in tons), revealing that the recent increase in Brazilian agricultural production was produced mainly by productivity growth. As Gasques et al (2002) show, Total Factor Productivity grew 4.51% in the 90s, and 4.25 between 2000 and 2002. As for land prices, a sharp decrease was observed from 1995 to 2000, when the price of a hectare costed only 45% of the price in 1995. Since then, prices are increasing steadily, with a jump between 2002 and 2003.

These numbers allow for the calculation of an estimate of land supply elasticity. Taking the period 1996-2003 (skipping the relatively high land prices in 1995), the price-elasticity of

⁷ Idle productive area does not include forests or land inadequate for cultivation.

land supply would be of 1. Considering the 2000-03 period (including the peak prices of 2003), it would be 0.43, in line with the numbers used by OECD for European countries, USA and Japan. Eliminating the peak year of 2003, the number would be 0.54. Considering the mechanics of simulation within the model, the results of stages III will be expressed in output variations (monetary values). Therefore, it is necessary to associate input price increases to output variations. For a 56.2% increase in production from 1996 to 2003, cultivated area expanded by only 15%, providing an area-production elasticity of 0.27 (for every 1% increase in production, area increased by 0.27%). During this period, land supply price-elasticity was unitary, implying an output price-elasticity of 0.27. Considering more recent years, in which land price-elasticity was lower, the output elasticity would also be lower, between 1.35 and 1.69. For the purpose of calculations, an output elasticity of 2 will be used. This elasticity will only apply to agricultural products. No land price increase will apply to poultry and eggs, cattle ranching, hog and pig farming and other animal production.

As for manufactured inputs, the model considers fertilizers, defensives, and tractors. The first two are mainly imported, and tractors are even exported. Considering the evolution of fertilizer prices and quantities between 1996 and 2003, it is observed that quantities increased by 86%, while real prices increased by 24%. The implied elasticity in these numbers is 3.62. Ignoring the strong variations of 2003, and computing averages of initial and end years, the elasticity would be slightly higher, 3.85. Contrary to the case of land, in which the area-production elasticity was lower than unity, in the case of manufactured input it is higher. Between 1996 and 2003, for every extra 1% in production, the quantity of fertilizers increased by 1.53%. Considering the supply price-elasticity of 3.62, the output elasticity would be of 2.36. For the period 2000-2003, any 1% extra production caused an increase of only 1.03% in input use. This additional input use was accompanied by a 0.49% increase in input prices, leading to an output-elasticity of 2.0. These numbers are clearly influenced by the values for 2003. Considering the sensitivity of results to the period chosen, a number of 2.5 for the output elasticity should be chosen. Due to lack of data for other manufactured inputs, the same elasticity will be used for defensives and tractors.

There is a long lasting decreasing trend in labor absorption in Brazilian agriculture. Even in the 70s, when employment in general was growing strongly, agriculture released workers. In recent years, with the already demonstrated growth in production, employment is not following.

That would be only a partial view, if other sectors were demanding labor from agriculture. However, that is not the case, for unemployment rates are widespread across sectors and regions of the Brazilian economy, at high levels. For an increase of 56.2% in agricultural production between 1996 and 2003, the number of employed persons in agriculture decreased by around 10%, and real wages decreased by around 4%. It is reasonable thus to suppose that any additional worker needed in agriculture in the near future will be available at the current market wage level.

In summary, the price effects due to input supply limitations used in the model will be

Input	A 1% increase in agricultural output will increase input prices by
Land	0.5%
Manufactured inputs	0.4%
Labor	0

4.2. Demand Elasticities

A pseudo panel was constructed to calculate own-price, cross-price and income elasticities for a disaggregated list of food products, as well as for aggregated groups of non-food products. A two-stage demand function model commonly used in agricultural studies was constructed, with a more sophisticated estimation procedure. Household expenditure data were used to construct a three-dimension pseudo panel with: time, region and income bracket. This procedure allows for the control for effects that vary with time, but are constant across regions (random effects), as well as for effects fixed in time, but which vary across regions (fixed effects), effects which, when not specified, are included in the omitted variables, biasing the parameter estimators.

Data used came from the 1987/88 and 1995/96 POF – Pesquisa de Orçamentos Familiares, household expenditure surveys produced by IBGE, the Brazilian official statistics office. They consist of surveys covering expenditure of 14,000 families in 1987/88 and 16,000 families in 1995/96, for the most important metropolitan areas in Brazil: Belém (North), Fortaleza, Recife and Salvador (Northeast), Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo (Southeast), Curitiba and Porto Alegre (South), and Brasília (Center-West). Only families with some expenditure with some of those items were included in the study, resulting in samples of

404,366 observations in 1987/88 and 347,569 in 1995/96. The product groups are as follows: home maintenance - cleaning items, such as soap, detergents, etc.; accessories - bags, belts, wallets and bijouterie; transportation - urban bus, fuel and labor; personal care - shampoo, soap, toilet paper etc.; personal expenditure - maids, hairdresser and sewing professionals; recreation - movies, clubs, magazines and non-academic books; and education - tuition for elementary and high schools, books and stationery.

In the first stage a pseudo panel was constructed aggregating consumption items into those 13 groups, with observations for 10 income brackets (income deciles), 10 metropolitan regions and 2 years. In the second stage expenditure with the 19 food products was also disaggregated into the 10 x 10 x 2 fashion. Therefore, each step considered 200 observations. Within the TSBS, it is assumed that, in the first stage, consumers chose how to spend their income among the following groups of products: food, housing, home maintenance, apparel, shoes, accessories, transportation, health services and drugs, leisure and tobacco, personal hygiene, personal expenditures, and education. In the second stage, the expenditure allocated to food products will be attributed to 19 food products: sugar, rice, banana, potato, coffee, onion, wheat flour, manioc flour, beans, chicken, orange, milk, pasta, margarine, vegetable oils, bread, cheese, and tomato.

The estimation method employed is the Interactive Seemingly Unrelated Regression (ISUR), which is equivalent to the Full Information Maximum Likelihood method (FILM). When ISUR is employed to estimate a LAIDS model, the property of additivity of the demand function makes the variance and covariance matrix singular. To solve for that, any one of the equations is taken off of the system. In order to keep the homogeneity property, all prices must be normalized by the price referring to equation excluded. The coefficients for this equation are recuperated, given the additivity property. Symmetry is imposed in the estimation process.

Table 1 below presents the estimated own-price, cross-price, and income elasticities for 19 commodities. Both own-price and income elasticities present the expected signs, with all but one commodity in the inelastic portion of the demand function (wheat flower shows a price elasticity of -1.172).

Table 1 – Own-Price, Cross-Price, and Income Elasticities

Price Elasticities																					
	Sugar	Rice	Banana	Potato	Coffee	Meat	Onion	Manioc	Wheat	Flower	Flower	Beans	Chicken	Orange	Milk	Pasta	Margarine	Oil	Bread	Cheese	Tomato
ei1	-0.77																				
ei2	-0.21	-0.83																			
ei3	0.11	-0.05	-0.94																		
ei4	0.12	-0.03	-0.05	-0.88																	
ei5	0.27	0.14	0.02	0.14	-0.45																
ei6	0.18	0.30	0.05	0.46	-0.83	-0.58															
ei7	0.05	-0.01	0.01	-0.07	0.11	-0.01	-0.74														
ei8	0.17	0.16	-0.03	0.06	-0.03	-0.08	0.32	-0.68													
ei9	-0.21	0.06	-0.07	-0.25	0.09	-0.02	0.39	0.11	-1.17												
ei10	0.09	0.06	0.08	0.30	0.04	-0.08	-0.08	-0.11	0.21	-0.74											
ei11	0.14	-0.14	0.17	-0.44	0.19	0.05	0.15	0.20	-0.33	-0.05	-0.90										
ei12	0.06	-0.02	0.05	-0.04	0.03	0.00	-0.06	0.11	-0.02	0.07	0.05	-1.08									
ei13	-0.49	0.13	-0.21	0.35	0.35	-0.22	-0.19	0.72	0.58	0.12	0.13	-0.01	-1.07								
ei14	0.05	0.03	-0.05	0.17	-0.01	0.01	-0.37	0.02	-0.46	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.04	-1.08							
ei15	0.08	-0.08	0.02	-0.33	0.02	0.13	-0.21	-0.39	-0.11	-0.14	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.14	-0.92						
ei16	0.16	-0.14	0.07	0.10	-0.01	0.09	0.07	-0.19	-0.08	-0.08	0.01	0.10	0.05	-0.01	-0.18	-0.92					
ei17	-0.03	-0.02	0.32	0.04	0.09	-0.04	0.10	0.36	-0.24	0.28	0.00	-0.20	0.05	-0.07	0.13	-0.34	-0.52				
ei18	0.13	0.00	0.09	0.05	-0.08	-0.04	-0.06	0.09	-0.25	0.29	0.11	-0.09	-0.13	0.28	0.18	0.27	-0.08	-0.79			
ei19	0.23	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.17	0.01	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-0.16	-0.01	-0.02	0.10	-0.99		
Expenditure Elasticities																					
Ei	0.19	0.16	0.62	0.59	0.24	0.65	0.51	-0.06	0.42	0.00	0.30	0.85	0.56	0.32	0.59	0.42	0.16	0.94	0.52		

As expected, the cross-price elasticities are low, and complementarity and substitutability among goods are observed in general. As for income-elasticity, all commodities present low values, which was expected for food products. The higher values for the elasticities are observed for cheese (0.942), orange (0.853), and beef (0.651), which are relatively more expensive than the other items. Beans and manioc flower, very basic products in the typical diet of the Brazilian poor, exhibit negative income elasticities, although very close to zero.

5. Policy Simulations

In this section a more realistic situation is simulated. Given the framework presented above, it is expected that trade liberalization will change the international prices of agricultural commodities, with effects on rural and urban families in Brazil. Since different types of rural and urban households are involved in the productive process in different ways, it is expected that the international price changes will affect them differently. The aim of this chapter is to present the expected impacts for the different household types, hence on inequality and poverty.

5.1. Expected changes in international commodity prices

As presented in Section 4, the international and domestic changes in product prices are exogenous to this study. They were calculated independently using a Computable General Equilibrium model (CGE) of the world economy, in which the flow of trade between countries is considered. This world model is used to simulate a situation in which all forms of subsidies are reduced by half in every country (including Brazil, whenever it is the case). The estimated expected price changes are displayed in Table 5.1, which presents the impacts on the domestic prices, export prices, import prices, and export volume. All food products exported by Brazil are expected to experience domestic price increases of over 2%, with a maximum of 5.68%.

Table 6.1 - GTAP expected changes in prices and export volumes (%)

GTAP Products	Domestic Prices	Export Prices	Import Prices	Export volume
Paddy rice	2.62	3.24	0.45	94.52
Horticulture	2.44	3.24	0.59	-6.52
Sugar cane & beet	2.52	0,00	-14.24	-69.51
Plant fibres and other crops	2.76	3.39	0.14	-3.94
Wheat	1.64	2.41	1.14	-11.53
Coarse grains	2.95	3.6	0.85	0.26
Oilseeds	2.43	3.18	1.28	1.21
Bovine cattle, sheeps	5.68	6.34	1.81	-6.35
Raw milk	3.16	3.76	1.98	-31.43
Non-ruminants	3.88	4.56	0.82	-8.4
Dairy	3.03	3.03	3.10	17.31
Sugar	2.01	2.01	1.57	7.24
Bovine meat	3.96	3.96	1.44	163.85
Pig&Poultry meat	3.99	3.99	1.27	1.29
Other processed food	2.3	2.3	-0.77	3.28
Manufactures	-0.03	-0.03	-0.13	7.22
Textiles, wearing apparel, leather	0.02	0.02	-0.48	-0.04
Services	0.99	0.99	0.10	-2.15

5.2. Aggregate impacts on the Brazilian economy

Aggregate results are presented in Table 5.2. As a consequence of increases in prices and export volumes, real aggregate GDP is expected to grow by 1.6%, real household income by 1.58%, and employment level by 1.41%. These are quite low values, reflecting the fact that Brazilian economy is highly diversified, with agricultural activities and food processing industries taking a small share of total activity, as explained in Chapter 2. Besides that, exports are a small share of total production. For raw agricultural products, it represented only 3% of total production in 1999. Within this group, soybeans presented the largest export share, 31.1%, in spite of the importance of the Brazilian production in the international market. For processed food products as a group, the export share was 13.6%, with the largest shares belonging to sugar (35.6%), and coffee products (32.1%). The importance of the domestic market explains the low impacts of the simulated export increases, and also the fact that all types of families end-up receiving the benefits of increased exports, as will be shown later on in this chapter.

Table 5.2 – Aggregate results

	%
Real GDP	1.60161
Real Household Income	1.57591
Consumer Price Index	1.63406
GDP Deflator	1.27965
Employment	1.40686

5.3. Global results sensitivity to input limitation parameters

The parameters that represent the effects of increased production on input prices were presented in Chapter 4. The model estimates Leontief-type price multipliers that spread the effects of input price increases throughout the economic system. These price increases affect real income and hence domestic demand. Since their estimation was made without the sophisticated econometric techniques applied to demand elasticities, it is important to check whether or not results are sensitive to their values. For that, the parameters were changed, with the resulting changes in real GDP, real household income, consumer price index, general domestic price deflator, and employment are show in table 5.3.

It can be seen that the model results are not sensitive to these parameters, since the differences are all small. For example, if both parameters are set to their lowest level, implying less price sensitivity of input supply, real DGP growth would go up by 0.00029 percentage points (from 1.60161% to 1.60132%). Since the price transmission mechanism is linear, a similar increase in the parameter values will produce the same quantitative results, only in the other direction. The largest impacts are on employment: from 1.40686% to 1.40578%, a change of 0.00108 percentage points, still negligible. Therefore, there is no basis to suspect that the aggregate results presented would change significantly if different limitations on the input side were imposed to the model.

Table 5.3 – Sensitivity of aggregate results to changes in input limitation parameters

Parameter values	Model	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Manufactured inputs	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
Land	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.7
Labor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Results (% changes)							
Real GDP	1.60161	1.60173	1.60149	1.60177	1.60144	1.60189	1.60132
Real Household Income	1.57591	1.57608	1.57574	1.57614	1.57568	1.57631	1.57551
CPI	1.63406	1.63406	1.63406	1.63406	1.63406	1.63406	1.63406
GDP Deflator	1.27965	1.27965	1.27965	1.27965	1.27965	1.27965	1.27965
Employment	1.40686	1.40637	1.40735	1.40627	1.40745	1.40578	1.40794
Changes in results							
Real GDP	-	0.00012	-0.00012	0.00017	-0.00017	0.00029	-0.00029
Real Household Income	-	0.00017	-0.00017	0.00023	-0.00023	0.00040	-0.00040
CPI	-	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
GDP Deflator	-	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Employment	-	-0.00049	0.00049	-0.00059	0.00059	-0.00108	0.00108

5.4. Global results sensitivity to the allocation of additional exports to farm types

The results on Table 5.2 consider that additional exports will be allocated to the five farm types proportionally to their previous shares in production. One might argue that these extra exports are probably to be served by large producers, since they are the ones more entrepreneurial and market-oriented, and that this could lead to different results in comparison to the ones presented. Thus, in this section simulations were made considering different allocation of exports across farm types. In Table 5.4 three situations are portrayed. In the first, the increased international demand is to be served by all types of farmers, proportionally to their participation in production. The second considers that only farmers of types 4 and 5 (large family and commercial farmers) will export and provide inputs to exporting sectors (for example, only large producers will provide sugar cane as inputs to the manufacturing of sugar). The third situation considers that only the three first types of family farmers will sell abroad and provide inputs to food processing activities.

It will be shown in a later section that these three situations will produce differences in distributive effects, but at the aggregate level, the impacts are really small, as the results

displayed in Table 5.4 indicate. This is explained by the important role of domestic demand originated in the urban sector of the Brazilian economy. As presented in Chapter 2, the share of urban population is around 80%, and the share of urban income is around 90%. Thus, an increase in the exports of agricultural goods will end-up affecting the income of urban households, which in turn will purchase agricultural products from all types of farms. Thus, these results indicate that the results are quite robust to different allocation of exports to farm types.

Table 5.4 – Sensitivity of global results to different export profiles

Allocation of additional exports	Change in aggregate Household Income	Difference (% points)
Proportional to shares in production	1.5759%	-
Large family and commercial farms only	1.5713%	0.0046
Small family farms only	1.5694%	0.0065

5.5. Distributive aspects

In this section the impacts are analyzed considering their different effects across household types. The aggregate results presented before are detailed as they accrue to different households, and some synthetic indicators are used to consider the impacts on poverty and inequality.

5.5.1 Effects across household types

Table 5.5 shows the expected changes in income received by households resulting from the GTAP scenario of domestic price changes derived from international adjustments. It shows that agricultural employees and commercial farmers are the ones expected to have the largest positive impacts (+2.95% and +2.84%). In general, rural households will benefit more than urban households. The two poorest rural household types will receive the lowest positive impacts among rural households (+1.91%), but this is larger than the best case of urban households (+1.49%). The best case within agricultural farmers is a positive impact of 2.11% (type D), still 0.8 percentage point below commercial farmers.

Table 5.5 - Impacts on household income across family types

Family type	Household Income growth (%)
Family Agriculture 1	1.9066
Family Agriculture 2	1.9217
Family Agriculture 3	2.0576
Family Agriculture 4	2.1130
Commercial Farmers	2.8458
Agricultural Employees	2.9522
Urban 1	1.4564
Urban 2	1.4830
Urban 3	1.4871
Urban 4	1.4785
All Households	1.5759

Table 5.6 illustrates the various stages in the estimation of the model, as presented in section 4. Column F is exactly the same as in Table 5.5, exhibiting the final effects. Column E indicates the effects on income of increased exported volumes, without considering any price changes. All changes are positive, for it shows the effects on the economy of increasing the production of the respective sectors, at the previous price levels (except for input price changes, displayed in the column D). Comparing these two columns, it is clear that rural households increase their numbers when going from E to F, and urban households present decreasing values. This is expected, for urban households face more negative price impacts, given their consumption baskets and income sources.

Column A presents income changes due to increased product prices, and column B shows income compensation, that is, income that was distributed to other household types in order to keep total income constant in the system. The sum of these two columns results in positive numbers for rural households, and negative for urban families, indicating a net transfer of income from urban to rural sectors due to an overall increase in the price of agricultural goods (all price-inelastic). Thus, while all households benefit from increased exports, rural families

receive positive effects of price and income compensation, while urban families have to face increased agricultural prices. Column C displays the effects on income of input price restrictions (land and manufactured inputs), and column D introduces the income compensation for the resulting price changes.

Table 6.6 - Changes in household income, by estimation stage

	Income change due to increased product prices	Income compensation for changes in product prices	Income change due to land and manufactured inputs supply restrictions	Income compensation for changes in prices of land and manufactured inputs	Changes in exported volume	Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Family agriculture 1	0,45	-0,32	0,02	-0,02	1,77	1,91
Family agriculture 2	0,45	-0,31	0,02	-0,02	1,78	1,92
Family agriculture 3	0,50	-0,30	0,02	-0,02	1,85	2,06
Family agriculture 4	0,52	-0,30	0,03	-0,02	1,88	2,11
Commercial farmers	0,83	-0,28	0,04	-0,01	2,28	2,85
Agricultural Employees	0,87	-0,29	0,04	-0,01	2,34	2,95
Urban Households 1	0,24	-0,32	0,01	-0,02	1,54	1,46
Urban Households 2	0,25	-0,32	0,01	-0,02	1,55	1,48
Urban Households 3	0,25	-0,31	0,01	-0,02	1,55	1,49
Urban Households 4	0,24	-0,31	0,01	-0,02	1,55	1,48
All households	0,29	-0,31	0,01	-0,02	1,60	1,58

5.5.2 Sensitivity to different allocations of additional exports

Even if the largest impacts accrue to commercial farmers and large family farmers, it is observed that all family farm types receive positive effects. As mentioned in section 5.4, this is related to the share of demand originated in the urban sector of the Brazilian economy, implying that any increase in exports will affect urban households, which in turn will purchase agricultural products from all types of farms. Adding to that, the GTAP simulation forecasts an increase in manufacturing exports, which is much larger, in size, than the increased value of food products exports. In order to illustrate that, the final effect was decomposed into the direct effect, and the total effect (direct, indirect, induced, and price effects). In the first step, only the direct impact of the increased export values are considered, ignoring the indirect (purchases of inputs from other sectors) and induced (consumer purchases) by the initial impact. In the second step, these

indirect and induced effects are included, as well as the effects of domestic prices on real income all over the economy.

The same two extreme cases commented on Section 5.4, referring to different allocations of additional exports across farm types, are considered here. The first considers that only household types 4 and 5, that is, large family and commercial farmers will produce the additional exports, both of final products and agricultural inputs to export sectors. The second allocates all additional exports to small family farmers. Table 5.7 presents the results of the standard run, and the two extreme cases. The global changes were already discussed in Section 5.4, and are very small, but the changes to specific household types are now important. Family farmers of type 1 (small) can get income changes varying from 1.45% to 3.15%, with a standard run scenario of 1.91%; commercial farmers' income changes vary between 1.6% and 3.08%, with a standard run value of 2.84%. These scenarios practically do not affect income growth for urban households.

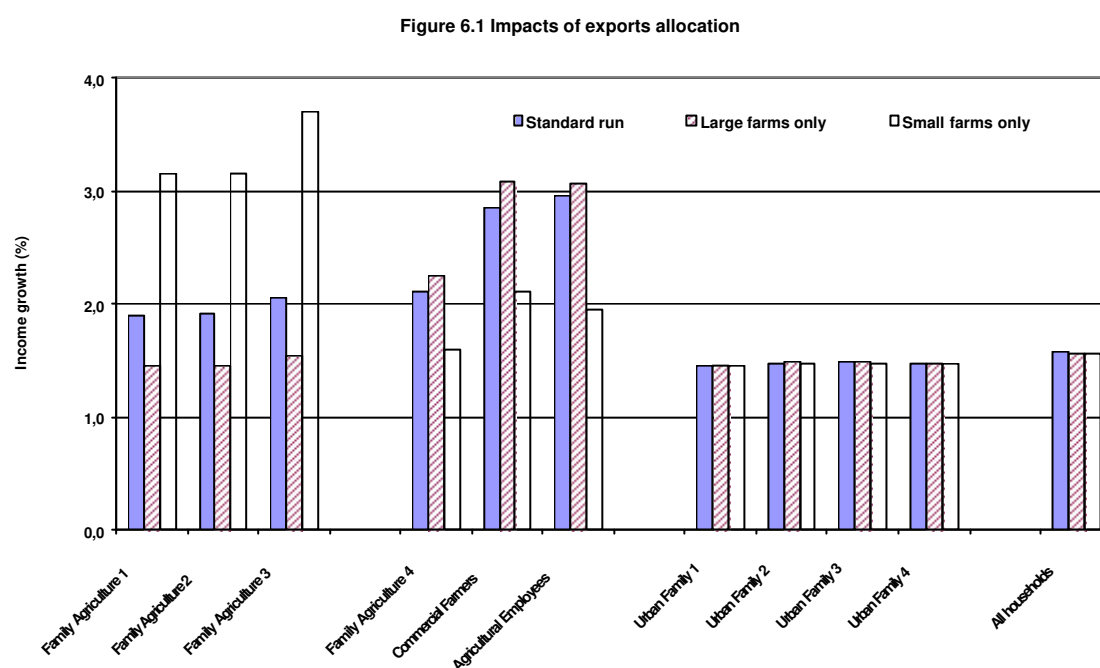
Table 5.7 – Impacts on household income growth of different allocations of additional

	Standard run		Large farms only			Small farms only		
	Direct	Total	Direct	Total	Difference	Direct	Total	Difference
Family Agriculture 1	0.3706	1.9066	0.0	1.4551	-0.4515	1.4497	3.1501	1.2436
Family Agriculture 2	0.3969	1.9217	0.0	1.4517	-0.4701	1.4733	3.1582	1.2364
Family Agriculture 3	0.4509	2.0576	0.0	1.5395	-0.5182	1.8796	3.6984	1.6407
Family Agriculture 4	0.4659	2.1130	0.6105	2.2493	0.1363	0.0	1.6045	-0.5085
Commercial Farmers	0.7592	2.8458	1.0214	3.0881	0.2424	0.0	2.1179	-0.7279
Agricultural Employees	0.8148	2.9522	0.9341	3.0752	0.1230	0.0	1.9570	-0.9951
Urban Family 1	0.2374	1.4564	0.2389	1.4578	0.0014	0.2381	1.4479	-0.0085
Urban Family 2	0.2643	1.4830	0.2657	1.4838	0.0008	0.2649	1.4752	-0.0078
Urban Family 3	0.2674	1.4871	0.2688	1.4878	0.0007	0.2680	1.4794	-0.0076
Urban Family 4	0.2638	1.4785	0.2659	1.4806	0.0021	0.2648	1.4709	-0.0076
All households	0.2970	1.5759	0.2956	1.5713	-0.0046	0.2963	1.5694	-0.0065

exports (Changes in household income, %)

These simulations illustrate the point already made in Section 5.4, on the importance of domestic demand. Considering the case in which only large farms can export, it can be seen that the direct impacts on the first three categories of family farmers is null. However, the indirect and induced effects coming from the increased activity in the economy at large imply income increases for

these households of over 1.45%. In the standard run case, the total effect for these three family groups is over 1.91%, from a direct effect between 0.37% and 0.45% only. Given the small farmers minor share in production, the allocation of extra exports to them produces large increases in their growth rates. This indicates that the distributive effects will differ between the cases. These changes in distributive impacts are displayed in table 5.1, in which the same synthetic inequality and poverty indicators shown in Table 5.7 are presented.



5.5.3. Impacts on poverty and inequality

In this section the impacts of the changes simulated in the model are considered with the use of synthetic indicators of poverty and inequality. Income inequality is portrayed through Gini and Theil coefficients, which are calculated for the whole income distribution, and separately for urban, rural, and family agricultural households. As for poverty indicators, changes in the percentage of indigents and in the number of poor people are considered. For this, households from PNAD 2003 were allocated to the same ten categories employed in this study and the

additional income coming from the simulations were summed to their previous incomes⁸. Since impacts are differentiated across household types, the aggregate income distribution changes, leading to new Gini and Theil coefficients.

Results are presented in Table 5.8, in which column A presents the basic case, referring to the situation present in the SAM. Column B shows the impacts on income distribution of the standard run of the model (additional exports proportional to previous shares in production). It can be seen that the price changes simulated in the standard run of this model leads to a marginal reduction in the general Gini index, from 0.58735 to 0.58708. Inequality within urban households is practically unchanged, and inequality within rural households, and even within family agriculture households, increases marginally. As expected, if additional exports are sold by large family and commercial farmers only (column C), Gini and Theil coefficients are reduced by less than in the previous case, and inequality within rural families increases more than before, although still marginally. Finally, if only small farms export the additional products purchased by foreign demand, income inequality is reduced in the rural area, although still only slightly. Similar results are achieved with the Theil index.

The bottom part of Table 5.8 presents headcounts of population in extreme poverty, that is, people that do not receive income to buy food compatible with a minimum diet of calories and proteins⁹. State-specific conservative poverty lines were used, meaning that the number of poor is smaller than if other poverty lines available were used¹⁰. Therefore, the impacts on the number of poor presented here are to be taken as maximum values. Again, results are very modest, for a number between 334,000 and 427,000 people would be taken away from extreme poverty, representing changes between 2.98% and 3.81% of the total number of people in that situation. There is an important regional aspect here, for in the Northeast region changes will be much larger (between 4.75% and 6.19%), with over 75% of people moving away from extreme poverty coming from this region.

⁸ The necessary correction for price changes between 1999 and 2003 was applied.

⁹ Taken from Rocha, S. and Albuquerque, R. C. "Geografia da pobreza extrema e vulnerabilidade à fome", Seminário Especial Fome e Pobreza – Fórum Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Set 2003 (www.forumnacional.org.br/publi/ep/EP0054.pdf)

¹⁰ For a discussion, see Takagy, M., Grazziano da Silva, J. and Del Grossi, M. "Pobreza e fome: em busca de uma metodologia para quantificação do problema no Brasil, Campinas IE/UNICAMP, Texto para Discussão N. 101, Jul 2001, and Silveira, F. G. et. all. "Insuficiência alimentar nas grandes regiões urbanas brasileiras: estimativas a partir da POF 1995/96-IBGE" *Economia Aplicada*, Vol. 8, N. 3, Jul 2003

These minor impacts on income inequality and poverty are expected, given the small aggregate effects on GDP, household income and employment, and the large share of the urban economy in Brazil. Since most changes only affect rural households, and these are only a small part of Brazilian population, these changes end-up presenting only small impacts on aggregate income distribution.

Table 6.8 - Effects of different export scenarios on poverty and distribution

	Export scenarios				Changes		
	Basic case	Proportional to share in production	Large family and commercial farms only	Small family farms only	(B - A)	(C - A)	(D - A)
	A	B	C	D			
Gini Index							
Geral	0,58735	0,58708	0,58721	0,58680	-0,00027	-0,00014	-0,00055
Urban	0,56912	0,56913	0,56913	0,56913	0,00001	0,00001	0,00001
Rural	0,54465	0,54515	0,54594	0,54309	0,00050	0,00129	-0,00156
Family agriculture	0,50357	0,50392	0,50491	0,50105	0,00035	0,00134	-0,00252
T - Theil Index							
Geral	0,70498	0,70440	0,70468	0,70383	-0,00058	-0,00030	-0,00115
Urban	0,65291	0,65291	0,65291	0,65291	0,00000	0,00000	0,00000
Rural	0,66532	0,66708	0,66932	0,66130	0,00176	0,00400	-0,00402
Family agriculture	0,48364	0,48431	0,48663	0,47743	0,00067	0,00299	-0,00621
Population in extreme poverty							
Number	11.187.966	10.827.744	10.854.230	10.761.177	-360.222	-333.736	-426.789
Share	6,68%	6,46%	6,48%	6,42%	-0,22%	-0,20%	-0,25%
Percentage change					-3,22%	-2,98%	-3,81%

5. Concluding remarks

By including different farm types, their differentiated products mix, their received income, and their consumption structure, it is possible to estimate how changes in specific prices will affect income distribution within the rural sector. Considering the urban sector, it is also possible to estimate how different groups of urban households will be affected by the price changes, given their income sources and consumption structures. As a result, after any price change in the system, the model will provide a new picture of the income distribution in the country. This information is very important for assessing the consequences of trade liberalization, for example, for in that case international prices will tend to change, with consequences for inequality and poverty in developing countries. Given the estimated impacts on

different groups of producers and consumers, different sorts of cushioning policies can be designed.

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