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1 **Price responsiveness of supply and acreage in the EU vegetable oil markets:**
2 **policy implications**

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5 **Abstract**

6 Vegetable oil market is becoming of increasing interest in the global biofuel industry. This
7 phenomenon has also interested the European Union (EU), where the growing expansion of biofuel
8 production is affected by political interventions promoting fuel security and environmental goals.
9 Yet, empirical evidence on the impacts that changes in price of one commodity may have on the
10 supply of another commodity are rather scant. We investigate these dynamics for the major sources
11 of biodiesel in the EU and conclude on cross-commodity linkages for palm, rapeseed, soy, and
12 sunflower oils. We also examine the acreage response of domestically produced feedstocks to
13 changes in prices of vegetable oils. Our findings suggest strong and diversified path dependencies
14 among vegetable oils that should be considered in planning sustainable biofuel policies. In
15 particular, the empirical analysis reveals the great relevance of sunflower and soy oils, which show
16 a high price responsiveness, and the high competition in end uses of domestically produced
17 vegetable oils (i.e. rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils), that tend to be net substitutes in supply. In
18 terms of land use effects, we find that an increase in the price of imported palm oil results in a
19 displacement effect in land devoted to rapeseed cultivation, whereas a surge in the price of
20 sunflower oil decreases the use of land for rapeseed. Land use effects would be relevant in northern
21 EU countries where the production of rapeseed is the most intense. A policy measure in the EU,
22 incentivising the production of renewable and environmental-friendly fuel from sustainable
23 feedstocks, would be positive for the domestic market to the extent that it stimulates the production
24 of vegetable oils (soy and sunflower oils) with the highest direct and indirect emissions saving.
25 However, the expansion of oil palm plantations in extra-EU producing countries and of imports to
26 the EU would determine important impacts in terms of indirect land use change emissions and
27 direct emissions due to increased transports.

28 **Keywords:** Biofuel; Land Use Change; Price elasticity; Vegetable oils.

29 **JEL** codes: O13, P28, Q21, Q42.

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Price responsiveness of supply and acreage in the EU vegetable oil markets: policy implications

1. Introduction

Global warming issue due to the combustion of fossil fuel pushes the world to produce renewable and environmental-friendly fuel from sustainable feedstock. Accordingly, the production of biofuel experienced a substantial increase over the last decades (OECD-FAO, 2019). This increase has been mostly driven by biofuel policies implemented in dominant economies, such as the United States (US), the European Union (EU), Brazil (Oliveira et al., 2017). The main scope of these policies is to favour the use of biofuels, in order to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (OECD, 2008), although their net impact also depends on GHG emissions from indirect land use change (ILUC)¹ (Searchinger et al., 2008; Britz and Hertel, 2011). Indeed, some biofuels are successful in addressing environmental concerns, but some others create scepticism on their global sustainability (Humalisto, 2015).

Biofuel policies have a great impact on the vegetable oil sector, the major source of first-generation biodiesel. In 2018, about 77% of biodiesel was based on vegetable oils (30% soybean oil, 25% palm oil, 18% rapeseed oil) and about 12% of global vegetable oil supplies went to biodiesel production (OECD-FAO, 2019). Using biodiesel to increase the share of renewable and sustainable alternative for conventional fuels may be both beneficial and detrimental (IMF, 2007). Biodiesel may have impacts on environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability (Singh and Singh, 2010). By lowering countries' reliance on fossil fuels, it contributes to mitigate their GHG emissions, increase the competitiveness of their production, expand employment and promote rural development and social welfare (Elbehri et al., 2013). However, using edible oils to produce biodiesel has fostered the competition for land (Cai et al., 2010; Vasile et al., 2016). Converting existing cropland for biodiesel production might strain supplies of available land and aggravate

¹ While biofuels contribute to GHG reductions, biofuel production typically takes place on cropland that was previously used for other agricultural uses, such as growing food or feed. In order to recover this agricultural production, biofuel may lead to ILUC, that is the extension of agriculture land into non-cropland. Therefore, ILUC may limit the GHG savings that result from increased biofuels (Searchinger et al., 2008).

65 water stress caused by land use changes; in addition, biodiesel puts end uses of vegetable oils in
66 competition with products intended for human and animal consumption, or livestock (Tomei and
67 Helliwell, 2016; Santeramo et al., 2020). The use of edible oils for biodiesel has intensified the link
68 between these feedstocks, with spillover effects on agri-food prices and impacts in terms of land use
69 change (Peri and Baldi, 2013).

70 An expanding biodiesel industry and a consequent increasing demand for major feedstocks, due to
71 biofuel policies, puts high pressure on agricultural commodity prices (Banse et al., 2008; Araujo
72 Enciso et al., 2016). For instance, higher biofuel demand in the US and the EU has not only led to
73 higher soybean prices, but it has also increased the prices of competing crops and the costs of
74 livestock feed, incentivising to the switch from less profitable to more profitable crops (IMF, 2007).
75 By altering the equilibrium price, policies incentivising biofuel demand may induce displacement
76 effects across vegetable oils (Hamulczuk et al., 2019). The substitution and displacement responses
77 of vegetable oils supply to higher commodity prices allows to mitigate the impacts due to the
78 increase in demand of feedstocks for the biodiesel industry (Delta, 2011). The substitution and
79 displacement effects are influenced by the supply responsiveness to price changes and by
80 entrepreneurs' decisions to switch crops (Go and Lau, 2017). In addition, land in any country may
81 be converted to the production of oilseed crops in order to accommodate the increased demand,
82 driven by pro-biofuel policies (Kim and Moschini, 2018). The consequences on GHG emissions,
83 related to the potential land use effects, may be detrimental (Searchinger et al. 2008; Haile et al.,
84 2016). All in all, the linkages across vegetable oils markets may have environmental and policy
85 implications that should not be neglected (Santeramo and Searle, 2019, 2020).

86 With a focus on the EU market, the article addresses the following questions: which price
87 relationships link the supplies of major inputs of first-generation biodiesel? What can be learned
88 from the responsiveness to price changes of vegetable oils supply and land allocations of related
89 oilseed crops on the future development of sustainable biofuel policies? By answering the first
90 research question, we show how the supply of a certain vegetable oil and land devoted to oilseed

91 crops cultivation react to changes in prices of feedstocks adopted to produce biodiesel. We
92 investigate cross-commodity linkages in vegetable oils market by analysing supply responsiveness
93 to price changes. Cross-commodity linkages are synthesised by own-price and cross-price
94 elasticities of vegetable oils quantity. Further, we examine the acreage response to changes in prices
95 of vegetable oils to conclude on land use effects. By answering the second research question, we
96 speculate on the environmental and policy implications due to different price elasticities and land
97 use effects. Environmental implications are mostly due to different emissions associated with the
98 production of feedstocks (Delta, 2011; Humalisto, 2015). We argue that, in order to efficiently plan
99 biofuel policies, and prevent an excessive production of GHG emissions it is important to consider
100 how supplies and land allocations react to price movements. For instance, interventions to reduce
101 the available quantity of biodiesel from a low GHG saving feedstock, may not be environmental-
102 friendly if the measures tend to incentivise the available quantity of biodiesel from another high
103 ILUC feedstock and the share of land devoted to its cultivation. The environmental sustainability of
104 a biofuel policy should be assessed not only based on a reduction in the dependency on fossil fuels,
105 but also in terms of direct and indirect effects associated with the production of feedstocks.
106 The EU market is a case study of relevance, as a good example of a policy-driven biofuel market,
107 influenced by interventions aimed at promoting fuel security and environmental goals (Peri and
108 Baldi, 2013). The revised Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU (i.e. RED II), entered into
109 force as part of the Clean energy for all Europeans package, targets reduction of emissions, as
110 established in the Paris Agreement². The REDII sets objective and non-discriminatory criteria to
111 promote sustainability and reduce GHG emission in the biofuel markets³. All vegetable oils are
112 treated equally, and the sustainability and GHG emission criteria neither single out any specific
113 biofuel/feedstock nor limit the market access of imported biofuels to the EU⁴. This is true for palm

² The Paris Agreement aims limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

³ In this respect, the RED II is WTO compatible (European Union, 2019).

⁴ Most of imported vegetable oils enters the EU with zero or low tariffs (European Union, 2019). A few exceptions are the anti-dumping and the countervailing duties against the US biodiesel in force since 2009 and extended until 2020. However the recent developments on the anti-dumping duties and market defence lead to the removal of the duties on Argentinean and Indonesian biodiesel exports (USDA FAS, 2019).

114 oil, for which the EU is a net importer⁵. Although scientific data show that palm oil is associated
115 with high level of deforestation (European Commission, 2019a), palm oil is not identified as a “bad
116 biofuel” per se⁶. However, only palm oil that is certified as low ILUC-risk is entitled to be
117 subsidised⁷. The REDII sustainability and GHG emission criteria also identify sustainable biofuels
118 that are eligible for public support; sustainability in biofuel market is a priority for the EU and
119 within the Common Agricultural Policy 2014–2020 this priority creates also opportunities to access
120 to aids for the adoption of sustainable and multifunctional agricultural practices (Schulte et al.,
121 2019).

122 The empirical literature has predominantly focused on price elasticities of demand, evidences on
123 cross-commodity responses of vegetable oils supplies are rather scant. A few exceptions are recent
124 articles by Santeramo and Searle (2019, 2020) on supply price elasticities of soy and palm oils in
125 the US. Other studies focus on crop supply responses (e.g. Guyomard et al., 1996; Britz and Hertel,
126 2011; Kim and Moschini, 2018). Against this background, the contribution of this article is to
127 enrich the existing evidence by examining the price responsiveness of vegetable oils quantities and
128 land devoted to oilseed crops cultivation in the EU. We study own- and cross-price elasticities for
129 palm, rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils, characterised by different levels of direct and indirect, via
130 land use change, GHG emissions saving. The selected feedstocks accounted for 65% of total EU
131 biodiesel production in 2018; the remaining part was covered by used cooking oils and animal fats
132 and oils. Rapeseed oil is the main biodiesel feedstock in the EU followed by palm oil; they
133 accounted, respectively, for 39% and 19% of total production in 2018. The soy-based biodiesel
134 accounted for 8% of the EU supply, whereas sunflower oil is less than 1% of the total biodiesel

⁵ The EU imposed antidumping duties on Indonesian palm oil biofuel in 2013, but has withdrawn them in 2018 (ICCT, 2019). Currently, the EU has no import restrictions for palm oil (European Union, 2019). Similarly, there is no EU legislation on palm oil labelling, whereas few Palm Oil free campaigns are in place; the latter are expression of environmental concerns of consumers and manufacturers (European Commission, 2019b).

⁶ During the negotiations for the RED II, the European Parliament phased out palm oil biofuel. The proposal sounded non-WTO compliant, so that the European Commission had to define high-risk ILUC biofuels and plan to phase them out by 2030. The list of high risk ILUC biofuels has been published in the Official Journal Delegated Regulation 2019/807; according to the document, palm oil is the only vegetable oil that can be defined as high-risk ILUC biofuel (USDA FAS, 2019).

⁷ This is to meet the sustainability criteria set by the RED II. A few exceptions are palm oil planting on free lands, or palm oil from small holders (i.e. farm size smaller than 2 hectares), to ensure their tenure and independence over land (European Commission, 2019b). These measures are implemented to protect local communities, ecosystems and carbon stocks, in line with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (European Commission, 2019a).

135 feedstock in 2018 (USDA FAS, 2019). Rapeseed, palm, soy and sunflower oils are not only very
136 important for the EU supply of biodiesel, but also associated with relevant emissions saving as
137 compared to conventional diesel, and sunflower oil is the most GHG emission saving oil (Edwards
138 et al., 2017). Estimates from a system of vegetable oils (palm oil, rapeseed oil, soy oil, and
139 sunflower oil) inform on direct and indirect (via land use change) relationships linking the main
140 inputs of the first-generation biodiesel and allow us to derive implications on the sustainability of
141 future biofuel policies in the EU. Greater effort is still required to increase the share of renewables
142 and sustainable alternative in the global energy mix, to meet the Sustainable Development Goals⁸.
143 In order to ensure a long-term stability of the targets, the policies should be continuously adapted to
144 the changing market conditions. Our analysis speaks in this direction.

145 The reminder of the article is organised as follows: the next section outlines contributions from
146 previous studies on the linkages among vegetable oils; the third section describes the emergence
147 and evolution of biofuel policies in the EU and the trends in the vegetable oils sector; the fourth
148 section presents the empirical framework adopted to infer on cross-commodity linkages; the fifth
149 section reports the empirical results, analysed on a comparative basis with previous findings; we
150 conclude with environmental implications for future development of biofuel policies in the EU.

151

152 **2. Evidence from previous studies**

153 Biofuels have a relevant influence both on prices of processed products (e.g. vegetable oils) and on
154 prices of agricultural commodities (e.g. oilseed crops) (Baier et al., 2009). It is well documented in
155 literature that biofuel production has increased agricultural prices (e.g. Banse et al., 2008; Araujo
156 Enciso et al., 2016). While Babcock (2012) suggests that biofuels contribute to increase pressure on
157 agricultural commodity prices due to the growing demand for vegetable oils of the biofuel industry,
158 Kocar and Civas (2013) argue that agricultural lands offer an alternative: changes in land use may

⁸ Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as an universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

159 accommodate the increased demand of energy crops driven by the biofuel industry. The upward
160 pressure on commodity prices associated with the expansion of biofuel production explains the
161 renewed interest in the supply and acreage responses (Kim and Moschini, 2018). However,
162 evidences on cross-commodity responses of vegetable oils supplies are rather scant. Relevant
163 empirical evidences on price responsiveness of supply are synthesised in table 1. A recent article by
164 Santeramo and Searle (2019) on supply price elasticities of soy and palm oils in the US. They
165 conclude on asymmetric reactions to price shocks; their findings suggest that if biofuel policies in
166 the US underestimate substitution effects between soy and palm oils, climate benefits from soy-
167 based biofuel may be overestimate. However, if it is true that first-generation biofuel markets are
168 highly policy-dependant (Araujo Enciso et al., 2016), conclusions achieved for the US market of
169 vegetable oils may not apply to the EU market. A major difference with the US market is that the
170 EU is lead producer of biodiesel, with a production share of 36% mostly based on rapeseed oil
171 (OECD-FAO, 2019).

172 A few studies focus on crop supply responses in the EU. Guyomard et al. (1996) analyse the EU
173 Common Agricultural Policy reforms that reduced-price support levels: they find that the supply
174 functions of rapeseed, soy, and sunflower are upward sloping in their own price and downward
175 sloping in cross prices. Britz and Hertel (2011) develop an integrated assessment of the
176 environmental impacts of EU biofuels mandates and derive compensated supply elasticities for the
177 aggregate EU crops sector: the interaction between different commodities (i.e. rice, wheat, coarse
178 grains, oilseed, sugar), competing for fixed resources, suggests that all but one crop (i.e. rice) are
179 net substitutes in supply. However, cross-commodity responses of crops supplies may be not always
180 comparable with supply responsiveness of vegetable oils, especially for net importer markets, such
181 as the EU in the case of palm oil.

182

183 Table 1. Selected studies on price responsiveness of supply.

References	Country	Commodity	Palm price	Rapeseed price	Soy price	Sunflower price
Choi and Helmberger (1993)	US	Soy (yield)			0.13	
Guyomard et al. (1996)	EU	Rapeseed (supply)		0.42	-0.02	-0.09
	EU	Soy (supply)		-0.15	3.70	-0.40
	EU	Sunflower (supply)		-0.05	-0.02	0.22
Stout and Abler (2004)	US	Rapeseed (yield)		0.04		
	US	Soy (yield)			0.10	
	Canada	Rapeseed (yield)		0.05		
	Canada	Soy (yield)			0.07	
	Mexico	Rapeseed (yield)		0.02		
	Mexico	Soy (yield)			0.02	
Arnade and Kelch (2007)	US	Soy (supply)			0.31	
Santeramo and Searle (2019)	US	Soy (supply)	0.14		0.19	
	US	Palm (supply)			1.23	

184 Notes: Highlighted values are own-price elasticities.

185

186 Other Different studies provide evidence on crop supply response, but frequently the focus is on
187 other markets, such as the US (e.g. Lee and Helmberger, 1985; Shideed and White, 1989; Chavas
188 and Holt, 1990; Choi and Helmberger, 1993; Arnade and Kelch, 2007; Hendricks et al., 2014; Kim
189 and Moschini, 2018) or Canada and Mexico (e.g. Stout and Abler, 2004). Only Guyomard et al.
190 (1996) provide evidence for the EU market. Such studies take into account cross-price elasticities
191 between different products and estimate crop acreage responses to price changes; they deal with the
192 estimation of models to measure how prices affect farmers' production decisions (e.g. Bayramoglu
193 and Chakir, 2016; Haile et al., 2016; Kim and Moschini, 2018). However, it is worth of mention the
194 difficulty of comparing estimates from studies that differ in scope, data, and estimation methods.
195 The table 2 reports empirical evidence from previous studies estimating both own- and cross-price
196 elasticities of acres of rapeseed, soybeans, and sunflower seeds.

197 Table 2. Selected studies on price responsiveness of acreage.

References	Country	Commodity	Rapeseed price	Soy price	Sunflower price
Lee and Helmberger (1985)	US	Soy (acres)		0.35	
Shideed and White (1989)	US	Soy (acres)		0.41	
Chavas and Holt (1990)	US	Soy (acres)		0.06	
Guyomard et al. (1996)	EU	Rapeseed (acres)	0.23	-0.02	-0.10
	EU	Soy (acres)	-0.12	0.85	-0.33
	EU	Sunflower (acres)	-0.06	-0.03	0.20
Arnade and Kelch (2007)	US	Soy (acres)		0.05	
Hendricks et al. (2014)	US	Soy (acres)		0.36	
Kim and Moschini (2018)	US	Soy (acres)		0.38	

198 Notes: Highlighted values are own-price elasticities.

199

200 Looking at the effects of changes in prices of vegetable oils both on supply of vegetable oils and
 201 acreage intended for the cultivation of oilseed crops in the EU market, our analysis highlights
 202 different points of novelty. First, given the lack of evidence on price responsiveness of vegetable
 203 oils supply in the EU, our study provides a better understanding of inter-commodity dynamics in a
 204 policy relevant market for the biofuel sector. In fact, it is worth noting that the EU is a dominant
 205 economy in the biofuel sector (Oliveira et al., 2017). Second, looking at productive and trade
 206 dynamics in the vegetable oils supply due to changes in domestic and imported prices, we are able
 207 to derive effects in terms of ILUC both in the EU and at the international level. In fact, the
 208 substitution and displacement responses of vegetable oils supply to higher commodity prices may
 209 induce countries, not only in the EU but also in other region of the world, to change the production
 210 use of land to accommodate the increased demand of feedstocks for the biodiesel industry, with
 211 consequences on direct and indirect GHG emissions (Haile et al., 2016; Edwards et al., 2017).
 212 Third, our analysis deepens on the effects of price changes on the entire supply chain. Indeed, by
 213 evaluating how changes in prices of vegetable oils affect farmers' behaviour, who respond with
 214 consequent decisions in terms of land allocation, and strategies of producers and marketers of

215 vegetable oils, who adjust their production and trade schedules accordingly, we provide insights on
 216 the integration of markets in the vegetable oils sector.

217

218 **3. Biofuel and vegetable oils in the EU**

219 *3.1 The emergence of biofuels*

220 As suggested in Peri and Bald (2013) the growing expansion of biofuel production in the EU is a
 221 direct consequence of the political framework implemented to achieve fuel security and
 222 environmental goals. The expansion of the biofuel market dates back to 1992, when the provisions
 223 of the Mac Sherry reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (i.e. set-aside payment scheme,
 224 producer support scheme) allowed for the cultivation of feedstock (in particular rapeseed) for the
 225 production of biofuel (Oliveira et al., 2017). As shown in table 3, the share of acreage of rapeseed
 226 with respect to the total Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) in the EU shows a steady increase since
 227 the period 1992-1997. Decreasing until the period 2004-2009, the share of acreage of sunflower
 228 seeds is 0.86%; acreages of soybeans have been almost constant since the early Nineties. It is worth
 229 noting that the EU is not a producer of palm kernel.

230

231 Table 3. Acreage of oilseeds and share with respect to the total Utilised Agricultural Area in the European Union, average values in
 232 sub-periods between 1992 and 2016.

Oilseed	1992-1997		1998-2003		2004-2009		2010-2016	
	Area (1000 ha)	Share (%)	Area (1000 ha)	Share (%)	Area (1000 ha)	Share (%)	Area (1000 ha)	Share (%)
Palm kernel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rapeseed	3,378	0.63	4,292	0.82	5,681	1.13	6,640	1.36
Soybeans	498	0.09	523	0.10	407	0.08	581	0.12
Sunflower seeds	4,422	0.82	3,923	0.75	3,725	0.74	4,218	0.86

233 Source: Elaboration on data from FAOSTAT.

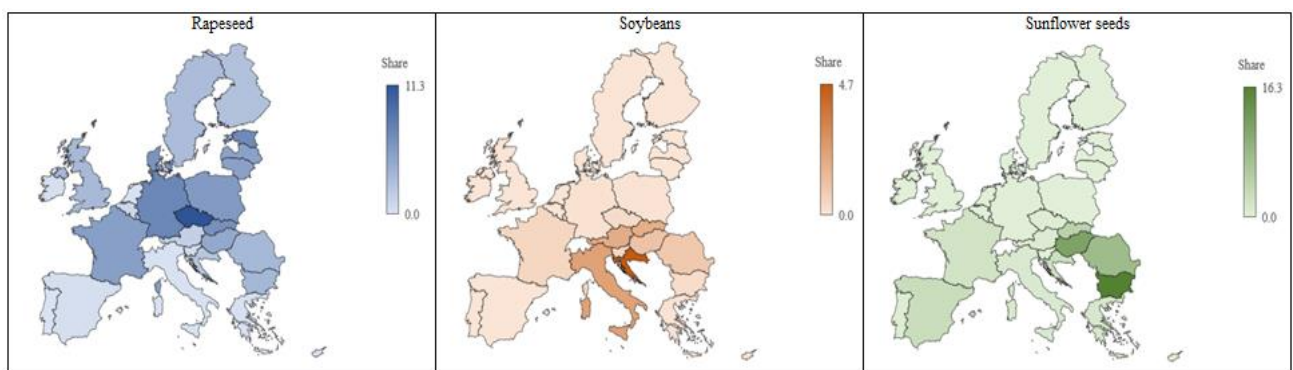
234

235 Among countries of the EU, Germany and France have been pioneers of biofuel with their
 236 agricultural sector as a major driving force; currently, they dominate the EU's biodiesel market

237 (Oliveira et al., 2017). However, in 2016 while the largest share of rapeseed acreage is concentrated
238 in countries of northern Europe (e.g. Czech Republic 11%, Germany, Estonia and Slovakia 7%,
239 Denmark and Poland 6%, France 5%), the shares of soybeans and sunflower seeds acreages are
240 higher respectively in southern (e.g. Croatia 5%, Italy and Slovakia 2%) and eastern (e.g. Bulgaria
241 16%, Hungary 11%, Romania 8%) countries of the EU.

242

243 Figure 1. Share of area harvested of oilseeds with respect to the total Utilised Agricultural Area in the European countries, 2016.



244

245 Source: Elaboration on data from FAOSTAT.

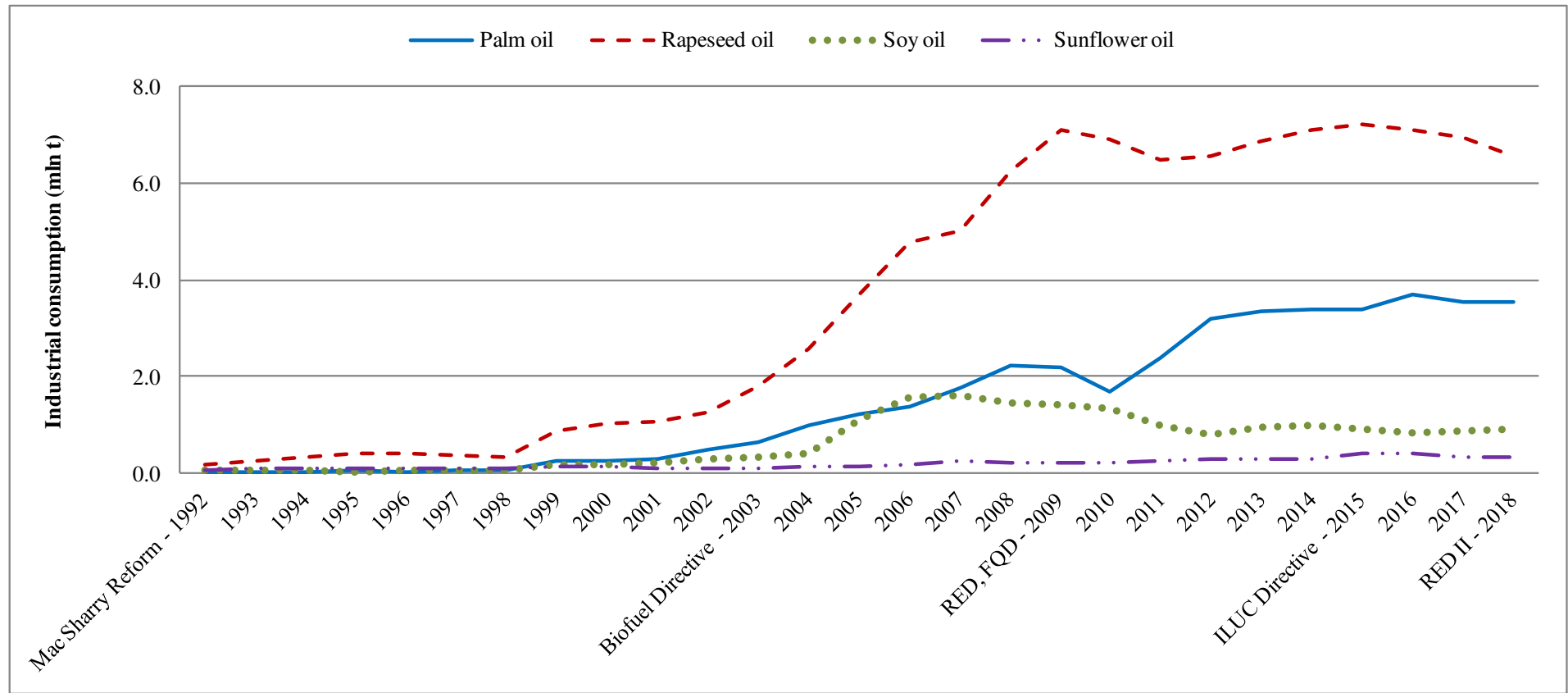
246

247 Since the early 2000s, the increased production of feedstock expanded domestic consumptions of
248 vegetable oils for industrial uses (figure 2) and called for regulations on the growing EU biofuel
249 market.

250

251

Figure 2. Domestic consumption of vegetable oils for industrial uses (fuel and non-food industries) and relevant events for the biofuel sector in the European Union: 1992-2018.



252

253 Source: elaboration on data from USDA FAS PSDO.

254 Notes: Data until 1998 refer to the sum of industrial domestic consumption of single Member States. The acronyms are: Renewal Energy Directive (RED), Fuel Quality Directive (FQD), Indirect

255 Land Use Change (ILUC).

256

257 The EU's decarbonisation strategy, through the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) (2009/28/EC)
258 and the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) (2009/30/EC), improved the previous Biofuel Directive
259 (2003/30/EC) and established targets to be achieved by 2020. In particular, the RED targeted 10%
260 as minimum blending level with vegetable oils for biofuels, and the FQD aimed at reducing GHG
261 emissions by 6%. Since 2009, the demand of vegetable oils levelled off after its rapid growth
262 beginning in 2000 (OECD-FAO, 2019). Both RED and FQD are responses to the criticisms on the
263 role of biofuel in GHG emissions (Searchinger et al., 2008). A by-product of directives on blending
264 levels for biofuels is due to the potential indirect effects they may induce in terms of land use
265 change: biofuels consumption would have displacement effects on non-cropland (e.g. grassland,
266 forests), increase the level of atmospheric CO₂ and reduce GHG saving effects. In order to address
267 these concerns, the Indirect Land Use Change Directive, or ILUC Directive ((EU)2015/1513),
268 amended RED and FQD, established a minimum requirement on GHG saving for biofuels. Under
269 the EU regulations, it is of great importance the calculation of net GHG emissions for ILUC related
270 to the production of biofuel (Efroymsen et al., 2016). Following the rules set by the ILUC
271 Directive, the European Commission's Joint Research Center (EC JRC) evaluated the GHG
272 emissions associated with biofuels: as compared to diesel or heating oil, the emissions saving is
273 64% for sunflower oil, 61% for soy oil, 57% for rapeseed oil and, for palm oil, range between 36%
274 of open effluent pond and 63% of methane collected from effluent (Edwards et al., 2017).

275 A recent change in biofuel policy has occurred in 2018, when the revised Renewable Energy
276 Directive 2018/2001/EU (RED II) entered into force as part of the Clean energy of the Paris
277 Agreement: the policy promotes emissions reduction. In the RED II, the EU targets to raise the use
278 of renewable energy sources by 32% in 2030, and defines sustainability and GHG emission criteria
279 that biofuels used in transport must comply with to be eligible for financial support by public
280 authorities. Member States must require fuel suppliers to provide, by 2030, a minimum share (14%)

281 of renewable energy in road and rail transportation⁹. Under the RED II, sustainable aviation and
282 maritime fuels can contribute to achieve the 14% transport target, given the compliance with the
283 sustainability and GHG emission criteria. Bio-based aviation fuels may have lower GHG emissions
284 as compared with traditional fossil fuels¹⁰. However, despite there have been several initiatives¹¹ to
285 increase the market penetration, the EU consumption is lower than the potential production
286 capacity, and accounts only for 4% of the EU demand for conventional fossil aviation fuels
287 (European Union Aviation Safety Agency, 2019).

288 Biofuel policies in the EU contribute to land use change and land concentration within the EU but
289 also in other regions of the world (Oliveira et al., 2017), such as Ukraine which is a leading
290 exporters of rapeseed for EU biodiesel producers (Schaffartzik et al., 2014). The RED took into
291 account feedstocks provided by extra-EU countries and related consequences in terms of land use
292 change in those countries; similarly, the RED II also establishes rules to minimise the risk of ILUC
293 associated with biofuel either locally produced or imported. However, in order to promote
294 sustainability and reduce GHG emission in the biofuel markets, the REDII sets non-discriminatory
295 criteria that make the it WTO compatible. According to non-discriminatory criteria, all vegetable
296 oils are treated equally, and most of imported vegetable oils enters the EU with zero or low tariffs
297 (European Union, 2019). A few exceptions are the anti-dumping and the countervailing duties
298 against the US biodiesel in force since 2009 and extended until 2020. However the recent
299 developments on the anti-dumping duties and market defence lead to the removal of the duties on
300 Argentinean and Indonesian biodiesel exports (USDA FAS, 2019).

301

⁹ Transport is the end use with the lowest renewable energy share. Most of the renewable energy consumed in the transport sector is policy driven and comes from crop-based biodiesel blended with fossil fuels that are used for transport. Most renewable fuel consumption is currently in road vehicles, with minimal use in aviation and maritime transport. This is due to the low economic and technical viability of renewable fuels and to the less policy support for their use in these long-haul sectors (IEA, IREA, UNSD, WB, WHO, 2019).

¹⁰ The EC JRC estimates the GHG emissions from the production of sustainable aviation fuel based on soy and sunflower oils at around 40 gCO₂eq/MJ, and based on rapeseed oil at around 51 gCO₂eq/MJ (European Union Aviation Safety Agency, 2019).

¹¹ For instance, the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) incentivise aircraft operators to use sustainable aviation fuels in order to comply with the sustainability and GHG emission criteria, as defined in the RED II. In addition, the European Advanced Biofuels Flightpath has launched, in 2011, a partnership between the European Commission and the major European stakeholders in order to facilitate the introduction of sustainable aviation fuels (European Union Aviation Safety Agency, 2019).

302 *3.2 The dynamics of vegetable oils markets*

303 The EU is the first producers of biodiesel, with a production share of 36%; the main feedstock used
 304 to produce biodiesel is rapeseed oil (OECD-FAO, 2019). Palm, rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils
 305 are the main vegetable oils, in terms of production and trade volumes, and satisfy 91% of domestic
 306 consumption. According to the USDA FAS PSDO data, in 2017 and 2018 rapeseed (39%), palm
 307 (25%), sunflower (18%), and soy oils (9%) have been the most supplied¹² vegetable oils.

308 The table 4 synthesise data on produced, imported and exported quantities of vegetable oils for fuel
 309 and non-food industries, whereas figure 3 reports the evolution of prices of vegetable oils.

310

311 Table 4. Production, imports, and exports of vegetable oils for industrial uses (fuel and non-food industries) in the European Union,
 312 average values in sub-periods between 1992 and 2016.

Vegetable oil	Unit	1992-1997			1998-2003			2004-2009			2010-2016		
		Prod.	Imp.	Exp.	Prod.	Imp.	Exp.	Prod.	Imp.	Exp.	Prod.	Imp.	Exp.
Palm oil	Tg	0.0	18.5	0.7	0.0	27.7	0.6	0.0	47.6	1.3	0.0	63.5	1.4
Rapeseed oil	Tg	28.3	0.2	7.6	42.1	0.1	3.9	72.5	3.8	1.1	96.9	3.4	3.2
Soy oil	Tg	25.5	0.2	6.6	28.6	0.5	8.4	25.3	7.1	3.6	24.9	3.9	8.4
Sunflower oil	Tg	20.7	1.4	2.4	22.9	4.3	2.0	22.9	11.0	1.5	29.2	10.1	3.0

313 Source: Elaboration on data from USDA FAS PSDO.

314 Notes: Tg stands for 10¹² g.

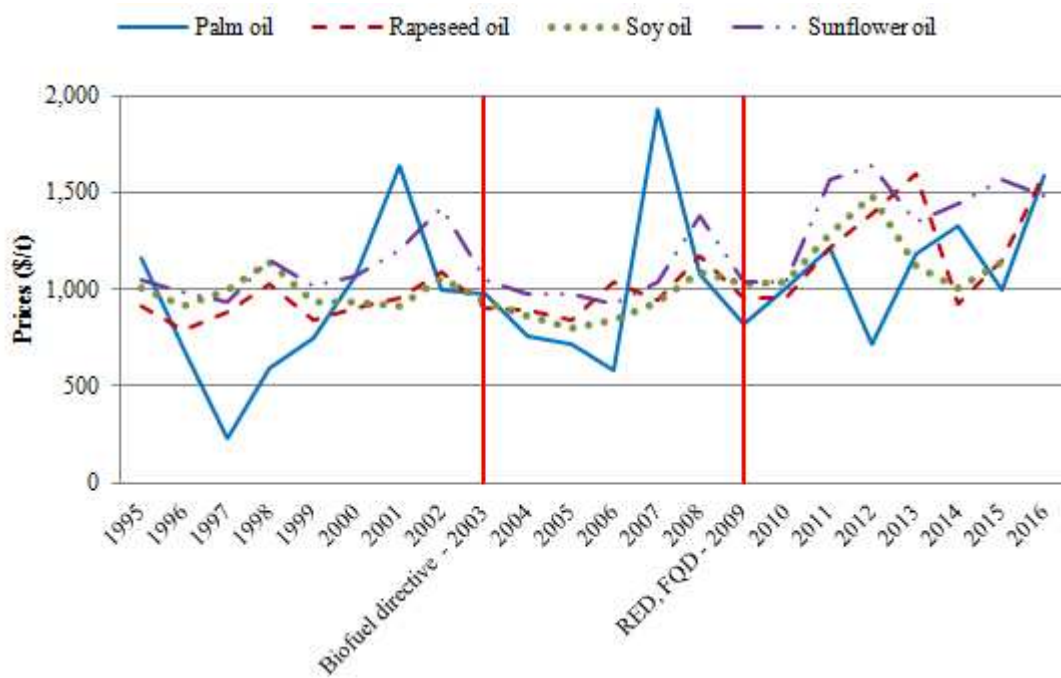
315

316 Trends in terms of production and trade have steadily grown, exception made for rapeseed and soy
 317 oils, which showed increases in imports from 1998-2003 to 2004-2009 and a setback of exports in
 318 recent years (table 4). The EU market is quite integrated: the prices of rapeseed, soy, and sunflower
 319 oils tend to co-move in the long run, exception made for palm oil prices, with more erratic trends,
 320 and marked downward (in 1996) and upward (in 2001 and 2007) peaks (figure 3).

¹² Supplied quantities are obtained as the sum between produced and imported quantities, net of exported quantities.

321 The EU is a large producer of rapeseed oil (96.2 Tg produced in 2016), and a main importer of
 322 whole soybeans, crushed to produce and export soy oil: rapeseed and soy oils are the most supplied
 323 for fuel and non-food uses. The growing demand of rapeseed oil for industrial uses (see figure 2)
 324 helps explaining the progressive increase of produced and imported quantities, and the reduction of
 325 exports. We observe a remarkable increase of rapeseed oil supply during the 2004-2009 period
 326 (table 4), coupled with a sharp increase in domestic consumptions (figure 2). During the same time
 327 span the prices of rapeseed oil have been growing (figure 3). The rising biofuel production is likely
 328 a main driver of the agricultural price hike (Rajcaniova et al., 2013).
 329

330 Figure 3. Prices of vegetable oils in the European Union, 1995-2012.



331
 332 Source: Elaboration on data from Eurostat.
 333 Notes: The acronyms are: Renewal Energy Directive (RED), Fuel Quality Directive (FQD).
 334

335 After rapeseed oil, palm is the second most demanded oil for industrial uses (figure 2). The erratic
 336 trend in domestic prices of palm oil (figure 3) is likely due to the movements of import prices.
 337 Production, exports and domestic consumption of sunflower oil have been almost constant over

338 time (table 4, figure 2). Figure 3 shows short term decline in prices of domestically produced
339 vegetable oils (i.e. rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils) just after changes in biofuel policies, in 2003
340 (Biofuel Directive) and 2009 (Renewable Energy Directive). In the following years the supplies of
341 vegetable oils have been altered: palm oil supply increased by 71% in 2004-2009 and by 34% in 2010-2016;
342 rapeseed oil supply increased by 96% in 2004-2009 and by 29% in 2010-2016 (table 4).
343 The own- and cross-price elasticities of supply would inform on the linkages across those markets.

344

345 **4. Methodological framework**

346 *4.1 Supply response equation*

347 In order to investigate linkages across vegetable oils in the EU, we examine how the supply of
348 palm, rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils reacts to changes in prices. We estimate own- and cross-
349 price elasticities (PES) for all combinations among selected vegetable oils with a two-stage least
350 square (2SLS) procedure, using instrumental variables (IVs). This procedure allows us to account
351 for the identification problem inherent the estimation of PES (Santeramo, 2015). The application of
352 2SLS solves problems of heteroscedasticity, multicollinearity, autocorrelation, and endogeneity of
353 price and quantity of goods (Chanthawong et al., 2016). We use weather-induced shocks (i.e.
354 temperature and precipitation) and a time trend as IVs. The use of weather-induced shocks to
355 instrument prices is common in the context of an aggregate global caloric supply (e.g. Hendricks et
356 al., 2015). The rationale is that if, at the decision time, producers are partially aware of forthcoming
357 supply shocks (determined by predictable weather shocks), their production and import decisions
358 may change accordingly, affecting expected prices. The omission of predictable components from
359 the estimating equation may generate endogeneity bias due to potential correlation between the
360 price variable and the error term. The use of IVs allows us to mitigate potential problem of
361 endogenous price. However, as suggested in Hendricks et al. (2014), potential endogeneity of prices
362 is not a major concern in the estimation of supply equations if the analysis is focused on how the

363 supply behaves at a country level (i.e. the EU). Similarly to Moschini and Kim (2018), we also
 364 assume price variations in the period under consideration triggered by exogenous demand shifts,
 365 including the development of policies in favour of biofuel.

366 In the first stage, we predict prices with respect to which the elasticity of available quantities will
 367 have to be estimated in the second stage. The price of the i -th vegetable oil at time t is modelled as
 368 follows:

369

$$\mathbf{p}_{it} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \boldsymbol{\beta}_i \mathbf{p}_{it-1} + \boldsymbol{\gamma}' \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{v}_{it} \quad (1)$$

370

371 where \mathbf{p}_{it} is the 4×1 vector of prices, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i$ is the 4×1 vector of constants, \mathbf{p}_{it-1} is the 4×1 vector
 372 of lagged own-prices and $\boldsymbol{\beta}_i$ is the vector of related coefficients, \mathbf{x}_{t-1} is the 4×1 vector of past
 373 weather-induced shocks (i.e. a flexible form of temperature and precipitation) and time trends and
 374 $\boldsymbol{\gamma}'$ is the vector of related coefficients, \mathbf{v}_{it} is the 4×1 vector of error terms.

375 In the second stage, we use the forecasted price to derive own-PES and cross-PES of supply of
 376 vegetable oils. Our specification is consistent with the profit-maximisation strategy of producers
 377 who condition production and imports decisions on expected prices. In line with the framework of
 378 rational expectations (Askari and Cummings, 1977), expected prices equal realised prices with one
 379 period lag. The supply for the i -th vegetable oil at time t is modelled as:

380

$$\mathbf{y}_{it} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_i + \mathbf{E} \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{it-1} + \boldsymbol{\gamma}' \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{v}_{it} \quad (2)$$

381

382 where \mathbf{y}_{it} is the 4×1 vector of quantities, $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i$ is the 4×1 vector of constants, $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_{it-1}$ is the 4×1
 383 vector of expected prices (i.e. prices realised with one period lag), predicted in the first stage, \mathbf{E} is
 384 the (symmetric) 4×4 matrix of coefficients of interest, \mathbf{x}_t is the 4×1 vector of current weather-
 385 induced shocks and time trend and $\boldsymbol{\gamma}'$ is the vector of related coefficients, \mathbf{v}_{it} is the 4×1 vector of
 386 error terms.

387 The specification allows us to investigate whether, and to what extent, the supply of the i -th
388 vegetable oil is influenced by the own expected price of i and by the expected prices of other J
389 vegetable oils. The models in equations (1) and (2) are estimated in log form so to have coefficients
390 easily interpretable as own- and cross-elasticities¹³ and in a Seemingly Unrelated Regression
391 Equations (SURE) fashion. A system of equations estimated by 2SLS is more efficient in capturing
392 the interrelation between equations, as well as causal and feedback effects between the core
393 variables of the system (Chanthawong et al., 2016). The 2SLS approach is preferred when data are
394 limited: compared to other specification it provides more accurate estimates.

395

396 *4.2 Acreage response equations*

397 In order to estimate the indirect land use effect due to changes in prices of vegetable oils, we
398 assume the total cropland (A) to be fixed and devoted to four alternative uses: rapeseed, soybeans,
399 sunflower and all other uses¹⁴. This assumption is in line with standard theory of land use choice
400 (e.g. Villoria and Liu, 2018). Following Kim and Moschini (2018), we posit that land allocation
401 decisions depends on the choices of a profit-maximiser farmer, whose decision problem consists in
402 choosing acreage shares, $s_i = A_i/A$ where is the acreage allocated to the i -th crop (i.e. rapeseed,
403 soybeans, sunflower, all other uses). Given that acreage allocated to each crop is measured as a
404 proportion of available arable land in each county, acreage shares should reflect the relative
405 profitability of producing a certain crop in each county in comparison to other uses (Garrett et al.,
406 2013). We assume that farmers' decisions of land allocation depend directly on changes in oilseed
407 prices (i.e. agricultural prices) and indirectly on changes in vegetable oils prices (i.e. prices of
408 processed products).

409 Assuming there are K EU countries observed over T periods, the acreage response equation for each
410 i -th crop can be specified as follows:

¹³ The interpretation of price elasticities in the output response equation is in the Appendix A.1.

¹⁴ We do not consider palm kernel in that the EU is not a producer.

411

$$s_{ikt} = \lambda_i + \lambda_{it} + \lambda_{ik} + \delta_{ik}s_{ikt-1} + \mathbf{E}p_{it} + \mu_{ikt} \quad (3)$$

412

413 where s_{ikt} is the 4×1 vector of shares, λ_i is the 4×1 vector of constants, λ_{it} is the 4×1 vector of
414 time fixed effects controlling for structural changes (e.g. technological progress) or policy changes,
415 λ_{ik} is the 4×1 vector of time-invariant country fixed effects accounting for heterogeneity across
416 countries, s_{ikt-1} is the 4×1 vector of own-lagged shares¹⁵ and δ_{ik} is the vector of related
417 coefficients, p_{it} is the 4×1 vector of vegetable oils prices (in logarithm) and \mathbf{E} is the (symmetric) 4
418 $\times 4$ matrix of coefficients of interest, μ_{ikt} is the 4×1 vector of error terms.

419 It is worth noting that the model in equation (3) considers shares of acreage at the country level and
420 EU prices instead of domestic prices. As in Haile et al. (2016), we assume that the aggregate
421 acreage response estimated through equation (3) implicitly considers the imperfect transmission of
422 EU prices to domestic producer prices.

423 The model in (3) is estimated as a system of equations through SURE in order to obtain efficient
424 estimates of the acreage response to price changes (Chanthawong et al., 2016).

425

426 *4.3 Data description*

427 A four-vegetable oil model (palm oil, rapeseed oil, soy oil, sunflower oil) is specified for the EU
428 over the period between 1992 and 2016, using annual data¹⁶. Information on produced, imported,
429 and exported quantities of vegetable oils (in Tg) are collected from the USDA FAS PSDO
430 database¹⁷ and data are available for the EU at the aggregate level. The aggregate EU refers to EU-

¹⁵ In a sensitivity analysis we include own- and cross-lagged shares to maintain the land constraint $s_{rapeseed} + s_{soybeans} + s_{sunflower\ seeds} + s_{other} = 1$. The results are confirmed. For more details, see table A.1 in the Appendix A.2.

¹⁶ See table A.2 in the Appendix A.3 for descriptive statistics of key variables.

¹⁷ The USDA FAS PSDO database provides data on production, supply and distribution of agricultural commodities for key producing and consuming countries. The USDA FAS PSDO database contains official statistics and includes all attributes, countries and years pertaining to a particular commodity.

431 15¹⁸ until 2003, to EU-25¹⁹ since 2004 until 2006, to EU-27²⁰ since 2007-2012; starting from 2013,
432 Production, Supply and Distribution numbers for the aggregate EU reflect the addition of Croatia to
433 the former EU-27. Spot prices (in \$/t) are obtained from the Eurostat database. In particular, prices
434 are average prices in the EU-15 until 2003, average prices in the EU-25 since 2004 until 2006,
435 average prices in the EU-27 since 2007-2012, and average prices in the EU-28²¹ since 2013.
436 Collected prices refer to “Crude palm oil and its fractions (excluding chemically modified)” for
437 palm oil, “Crude rape; colza or mustard oil and their fractions (excluding chemically modified)” for
438 rapeseed oil, “Crude soya-bean oil and its fractions (excluding chemically modified)” for soy oil,
439 “Crude sunflower-seed and safflower oil and their fractions (excluding chemically modified)” for
440 sunflower oil. We collected country-level data on the Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) and area
441 harvested for rapeseed, soybeans and sunflower seeds (in ha) from the FAOSTATA database²². We
442 obtain acreage shares for rapeseed, soybeans and sunflower seeds as the ratio between the acreage
443 allocated to each crop and the total of UAA of a certain EU country. Weather data are from the
444 Center for Climatic Research at the University of Delaware (version 2.01). Annual data are
445 computed by averaging monthly temperature and precipitation over the growing seasons.

446

447 **5. Results and discussion**

448 *5.1 Price responsiveness of vegetable oils supplies*

449 Table 5 presents the results of the first stage (model in equation 1), estimated in a SURE fashion.

450 The system of equations controls for the effect of past weather shocks and time trends²³.. Two out

¹⁸ EU-15 includes: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

¹⁹ EU-25 includes also Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia which enlarged the EU-15 in 2004.

²⁰ EU-27 includes also Bulgaria and Romania which enlarged the EU-25 in 2007.

²¹ EU-28 includes also Croatia which enlarged the EU-27 in 2013.

²² The FAOSTAT database provides crops statistics expressed in terms of area harvested, production quantity and yield.

²³ Past temperatures and their squares are significant only for palm and soy oils: the relationship linking palm and soy oils prices and temperatures is non linear. Past precipitations are detrimental for current prices of vegetable oils, but up to a certain threshold. In fact, for each vegetable oils, coefficients estimated are negative for past precipitations, but positive for the square of past precipitations. The coefficients estimated for the time trend are not statistically significant at any conventional level. Coefficients estimated for control factors, omitted for brevity, are available upon request.

451 of four coefficients are statistically significant at the 5% significance level. The price of rapeseed oil
 452 is negatively related to its own lagged price; the opposite is true for soy oil price. Vice-versa, prices
 453 of palm and sunflower oils seem to not react to their past prices, reflecting their constant trend
 454 overtime net to the effect of unexpected upward or downward peaks (see figure 3). The high R-
 455 squared and the low Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) (respectively, 0.800 and 0.067 for soy oil
 456 equation, 0.711 and 0.245 for palm oil equation, 0.610 and 0.090 for rapeseed oil equation, 0.559
 457 and 0.116 for sunflower oil equation) speak for the quality of estimates.

458

459 Table 5. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the I stage (equation 1).

Explanatory variable: past prices	Dependent variable: current prices			
	Palm oil	Rapeseed oil	Soy oil	Sunflower oil
Own lagged price	0.135 (0.110)	-0.298 ** (0.126)	0.253 ** (0.117)	-0.002 (0.135)
RMSE	0.245	0.090	0.067	0.116
R-squared	(0.711)	(0.610)	(0.800)	(0.559)

460 Notes: The system of equations includes control factors (i.e. past weather shocks and time trends). Standard errors are in parentheses.

461 ** indicates statistical significance at 5%.

462

463 The second stage of the system of equations (model in equation 2), reported in table 6, provides
 464 own- and cross-price elasticities (PES) among palm, rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils. The SURE
 465 model controls for weather shocks and time trend²⁴. R-squared greater than 0.85 for each equation
 466 and low values of RMSE (ranging between 0.036 and 0.056) indicate the good fit of the model.

467 The diagonal in table 6 reports the own-PES: all but one coefficient are statistically significant at
 468 the 1% significance level. The statistically significant coefficients of the own-PES have the
 469 expected sign: the own price elasticity is positive for palm, soy, and sunflower oils; differently, the

²⁴ Higher temperatures are beneficial for supplies of rapeseed and sunflower oils. However, the relationship between temperatures and supply of sunflower oil is non-linear (i.e. the coefficient estimated for temperatures-squared is negative). A non-linear relationships also link precipitations and supplies of soy and sunflower oils. The coefficients estimated for the time trend are statistically significant. Coefficients estimated for control factors, omitted for brevity, are available upon request.

470 supply of rapeseed oil does not react to changes in its own price (the estimated coefficient is not
 471 statistically different from zero). In line with the expectations, our results suggest that quantities of
 472 palm, soy, and sunflower oils positively responds to increase in their own prices.

473

474 Table 6. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the II stage (equation 2).

Explanatory variables: estimated price	Dependent variable: quantities			
	Palm oil	Rapeseed oil	Soy oil	Sunflower oil
Palm oil	0.203 *	-0.513 ***	0.458 ***	-0.504 ***
	(0.112)	(0.136)	(0.087)	(0.119)
Rapeseed oil	0.729 **	-0.331	0.008	-1.778 ***
	(0.368)	(0.446)	(0.284)	(0.392)
Soy oil	1.094 **	-2.181 ***	1.260 ***	-1.028 **
	(0.473)	(0.572)	(0.364)	(0.503)
Sunflower oil	-1.816 ***	2.322 ***	-1.195 ***	2.858 ***
	(0.591)	(0.716)	(0.456)	(0.630)
RMSE	0.046	0.056	0.036	0.049
R-squared	0.986	0.981	0.859	0.848

475 Notes: The system of equations includes control factors (i.e. current weather shocks and time trend). Standard errors are in
 476 parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate statistical significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%.

477

478 A 1% change in palm oil prices induces a supply expansion of 0.2%; differently, soy and sunflower
 479 oils supplies expand, respectively, by 1.3% and 2.9%, after a 1% change in their own prices. Soy
 480 and sunflower oils have a more elastic response to changes in their own prices, whereas palm oil
 481 reacts less than proportionally to domestic price changes (i.e. it is price inelastic), plausibly because
 482 the EU is a net importer of palm oil.

483 The markets of vegetable oils are more reactive in the EU than in other countries. While we find the
 484 supply of palm oil having a limited reaction to changes in domestic price of palm oil (+0.2),
 485 Santeramo and Searle (2019) find no response of palm oil imports to changes in price of palm oil in

486 the US. Similarly, soy oil is elastic in the EU, and inelastic in the US. Our estimated own-PES is in
487 line with the findings of Guyomard et al. (1996) for the EU. These evidences are not surprising if
488 one considers the composition of supply of vegetable oils in the EU and in the US (see figure A.2 in
489 the appendix A.5). While both the US and the EU are not producers of palm oil, the US produces
490 larger quantities of soy oil than the EU. The latter imports and crushes large quantities of whole
491 soybeans to produce soy oil and meet domestic demand. Indeed, the share of area harvested of
492 soybeans in the EU is the lowest as compared to those of other oilseeds (see figure 1). The evidence
493 supporting the greater responsiveness of vegetable oils in the EU than in the US is in line with the
494 argument of Rajcaniova et al. (2013) who state that, compared to other leading promoters of biofuel
495 (e.g. the US, Brazil), the EU is price-maker in the vegetable oils markets for biofuel.

496 Due to the high price responsiveness of sunflower and soy oils, EU policy measures intended to
497 increase the use (thus the demand) of first-generation biodiesel would benefit the most domestic
498 producers of sunflower and soy oils. The benefits would be also in environmental terms: soy and
499 sunflower oils have the highest GHG saving, both direct and indirect, via land use changes
500 (Edwards et al., 2017). In this context, in order to ensure a sustainable biofuel market, biofuel
501 policies should consider the possibility to incentivise energy crop cultivation by promoting
502 conservation agricultural practices: this would promote a sustainable biofuel production, making the
503 EU supply chains independent and self-sufficient over time.

504 Relative to the own-PES, the cross-PES of palm and rapeseed oils are large in absolute value,
505 indicating that the expansion of the market for palm oil or rapeseed oil largely comes at the expense
506 of other vegetable oils, and vice-versa. Differently, the cross-PES of soy and sunflower oils are
507 lower than their own-PES in absolute value, showing their low reactivity to changes in markets of
508 related vegetable oils.

509 We find palm and soy oils to be closely related: the market for palm oil tends to expand with
510 upward prices in soy oil market, and vice-versa. However, the reaction of palm oil to changes in
511 price of soy oil is more moderate with respect to that of soy oil to changes in price of palm oil. In

512 fact, the cross-PES of palm oil to soy oil price is elastic (+1.1), whereas the cross-PES of soy oil to
513 palm oil prices is inelastic (+0.5)²⁵. The lower responsiveness of soy oil is likely to be due to the
514 competition with end uses of soybean: in fact, the market value of soybean is biased in favour of
515 soy-based meal, whereas soy oil accounts for a lower percentage (USDA FAS, 2019). Our
516 estimated cross-PES between palm and soy oils are in line with Santeramo and Searle (2019), who
517 find similar evidence for the US market, with few differences: the supply of soy oil is more
518 sensitive in the EU (+0.5) than in the US (+0.1) to changes in price of palm oil; vice-versa, imports
519 of palm oil are less reactive in the EU (+1.1) than in the US (+1.2) to changes in price of soy oil.
520 Differently from palm and soy oils, palm and sunflower oils as well as soy and sunflower oils tend
521 to substitute each other. In fact, both palm and soy oils suffer a contraction after an increase in
522 prices of sunflower oil, and vice-versa. In absolute value, rapeseed oil reacts to changes in price of
523 soy (-2.2) and sunflower oils (+2.3) more than in price of palm oil (-0.5) (table 6): the most
524 produced vegetable oil in the EU (rapeseed oil) appears to be more affected by the competition of
525 the domestically produced commodities (soy and sunflower oils), rather than of the imported
526 commodity (palm oil). Similar conclusions may be drawn for sunflower oil, whose supply reduces
527 more than proportionally following an increase in price of rapeseed (-1.8) and soy oils (-1.0), but
528 less than proportionally after a surge in palm oil price (-0.5) (table 6). The supply of palm oil and
529 price of rapeseed oil are positively correlated; similar conclusions are derived for the supply of
530 rapeseed oil and price of sunflower oil.
531 The estimated response of vegetable oils supplies to prices of related products in the EU market has
532 been somewhat controversial. Guyomard et al. (1996) find that the supply functions of rapeseed,
533 soy, and sunflower are inelastic (exception made for soy), upward sloping in their own price and
534 downward sloping in cross prices. Our results agree with those of Guyomard et al. (1996),
535 exception made for the elasticities of soy to prices of rapeseed (as we find a null effect), and for
536 rapeseed and sunflower which move in the same direction. The differences in results are likely to

²⁵ In order to convey the implications of our findings we show, in figure A.1 in the Appendix A.4, how the available output of soy oil tends to react to changes in palm oil price.

537 reflect the different focus of the studies: our analysis is intended to investigate the linkages among
538 vegetable oils; Guyomard et al. (1996) examine the supply response of crops to changes in prices.
539 We investigate the price relationships among supplies of major inputs of first-generation biodiesel.
540 Overall, we find that domestically produced vegetable oils tend to be net substitutes in supply: an
541 increase in prices of one vegetable oil reduces the availability of other vegetable oils. An exception
542 is the complementarity relationships between sunflower price and rapeseed quantity. The imported
543 palm oil tends to move together with domestically produced vegetable oils, exception made for
544 sunflower oil, that tend to be complement with palm oil. Price elasticities are informative in terms
545 of environmental implications of policy interventions. The emissions associated with ILUC and the
546 emissions saving from biofuel vary on a case-by-case basis: the net effect of GHG saving depends
547 on the feedstock whose production is expanding. The empirical results reveal that increases in price
548 of one oil may reduce the supply of other domestically produced vegetable oils (e.g. rapeseed, soy,
549 and sunflower oils) that are low GHG saving feedstocks, and increase imports of palm oil, which is
550 responsible of high ILUC (Edwards et al., 2017). Investigating the supply responsiveness of
551 vegetable oils to price changes allows the EU government to better design the EU biofuel policies.
552 In addition, we speculate on how the supply responsiveness to price changes may be informative to
553 plan sustainable biofuel policies. Our results suggest that EU policies incentivising the use of first-
554 generation biodiesel may foster competition among domestically produced feedstocks, and benefit
555 imported feedstock (i.e. palm oil). Such a conclusion may be explained by the ability of the biofuel
556 industry to substitute feedstocks that are competing for similar end uses. A side-effect of such
557 hypothesised policies would be the expansion of oil palm plantations that may induce important
558 impacts in terms of ILUC emissions. The environmental and socioeconomic problems entailed by
559 large-scale production of feedstock for biofuel should discourage policies that favour imports of
560 feedstocks to reach the domestic target in the use of renewable energy. Our analysis offers several
561 insights to help planning biofuel policies and preventing excessive GHG emissions.

562

563 *5.2 Price responsiveness of oilseeds acreages*

564 Table 7 present the SURE estimates of the acreage response equation. The system of equations
565 controls for time and country fixed effects to account for structural or policy changes and
566 heterogeneity across countries, respectively²⁶. The high R-squared (never lower than 0.95) and the
567 low RMSE (never higher than 0.005) indicate the goodness of the model. As expected, the lagged
568 dependent variables are positive as well as statistically and economically significant in all acreage
569 response model.

570 We fail to find a significant acreage-price relationship for sunflower seeds. As for soybeans, the
571 acreage response to own price is positive and statistically significant at the 1% significance level,
572 which is consistent with economic theory. The results suggest that a higher price of soy oil induces
573 producers to increase acreage devoted to soybeans. This result is consistent with previous studies
574 that find positive effects of price change on soybean acreage. For instance, Haile et al. (2016) found
575 that changes in international price of soybeans increase by 0.15 acreages devoted to soybeans
576 cultivation. As for country-level studies, a positive response of soybean acreages to changes in own-
577 price is found by Lee and Helmberger (1985) (+0.35), Shideed and White (1989) (+0.41), Chavas
578 and Holt (1990) (+0.06), Arnade and Kelch (2007) (+0.05), Hendrick et al. (2014) (+0.36), Kim and
579 Moschini (2018) (+0.38). The focus of these studies is on the US market. Our results suggest a
580 lower responsiveness of the EU market to changes in price of soy oil (+0.009).

581

²⁶ In a sensitivity analysis we estimate the model in equation (3) without country fixed effects. For more details, see table A.3 in the Appendix A.6.

582 Table 7. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3).

Variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	0.850*** (0.025)	0.742*** (0.026)	0.741*** (0.033)
Palm oil (log)	0.013** (0.007)	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.006)
Rapeseed oil (log)	0.044 (0.030)	-0.008 (0.009)	0.001 (0.027)
Soy oil (log)	0.018 (0.011)	0.009*** (0.003)	-0.004 (0.010)
Sunflower oil (log)	-0.057** (0.026)	-0.001 (0.008)	0.006 (0.023)
RMSE	0.005	0.001	0.005
R-squared	0.959	0.954	0.974

583 Notes: The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate
584 statistical significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%.

585

586 The results also show that rapeseed has the largest acreage response to cross-oil prices. Its acreage
587 share increases with a surge in the price of imported palm oil, and decreases when the price of
588 sunflower oil increases. For instance, a change in the average imported price of palm oil from 903
589 \$/t to 993 \$/t (a 10% increase) induces farmers to increase their land allocation to rapeseed
590 cultivation by 8,632 ha (a 0.013% increase, considering an average acreage of 6,640 thousands of
591 ha during the period between 2010-2016, see table 3). Differently, a 10% rise in sunflower oil price
592 (say from 1,137 \$/t to 1,251 \$/t) determines a reduction in land allocation to rapeseed cultivation by
593 0.057% (say from 6,640 thousands of ha to 6,636 thousands of ha during the period between 2010-
594 2016, see table 3). Our results are consistent with Guyomard et al. (1996) who find that the acreage
595 response of rapeseed to changes in price of sunflower is -0.10.

596 In order to test if acreage of oilseeds has a different responsiveness to changes in prices of vegetable
597 oils pre- and post-biofuel era, we perform a sensitivity analysis. In particular, we evaluate price
598 responsiveness of oilseeds acreage in the post-biofuel era, i.e. since 2003, the year of entry into
599 force of the first Biofuel Directive (2003/30/EC)²⁷. We find that effects observed on the whole
600 period (table 6) are driven by effects observed in the pre-biofuel era, with effects found on the
601 whole period confirmed on the sample of year post-biofuel era. Further, we find that acreage
602 devoted to the cultivation of rapeseed also respond to changes in price of soy oil. in line with
603 Hamulczuk et al. (2019), we may argue that the demand driven expansion in the vegetable oils
604 market, due to an increasing request from the biofuel industry, has tightened the linkages across
605 markets.

606 Our findings have implications in terms of land use effects. An increase in price of sunflower oil
607 decreases the use of land for rapeseed. The results are coherent with the effects we found for prices
608 responsiveness of rapeseed oil supply: a complementary relationship links sunflower oil price and
609 rapeseed oil quantity. An increase in sunflower oil price augments the domestic production of both
610 rapeseed and sunflower oils (see table 6). At the domestic level, this puts land allocation to rapeseed
611 cultivation and sunflower cultivation in competition with each other due to land constraint. This
612 effects explains the negative acreage response of rapeseed to a surge in sunflower oil price.

613 Differently, an increase in the price of imported palm oil, for instance due to palm oil imports
614 restrictions for food safety (e.g. Palm Oil free campaigns) or environmental (e.g. displacement
615 effects on non-cropland, reduction in GHG saving effects) concerns, results in a major use of land
616 for rapeseed. Both the land use effects would be more relevant in northern EU countries, where the
617 production of rapeseed is the most intense (see figure 1). In fact, the acreage response to changes in
618 prices of vegetable oils presents some differences between countries that tend to be net producers of
619 rapeseed or of soy and sunflower oils. In a sensitivity analysis, we divide the sample of countries in
620 net produces of rapeseed (i.e. Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany,

²⁷ The results of the sensitivity analysis are reported in the Appendix A.6.

621 Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United
622 Kingdom) and net producers of soybeans and sunflower seeds (i.e. Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia,
623 Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain)²⁸. Findings suggest that the share
624 of acreage intended to the cultivation of rapeseed is sensitive to changes in prices of all vegetable
625 oils for countries that tend to be net producers of rapeseed. In detail, the acreage share of rapeseed
626 grows with an increase in prices of imported palm oil and of domestically produced rapeseed and
627 soy oils, whereas it reduces when prices of sunflower oil increases. The results are confirmed also
628 for the sample of net producers of rapeseed observed in the post-biofuel era (i.e. since 2003).
629 Differently, the share of acreage intended to the cultivation of oilseeds in countries that tend to be
630 net producers of soybeans and sunflower seeds do not respond to changes in prices of vegetable
631 oils. The only exception is the positive relationship linking soybeans acreage and price of soy oil.
632 Similar results are also found for the sample of net producers of soybeans and sunflower seeds
633 observed in the post-biofuel era (i.e. since 2003).
634 Overall, we may conclude that the effects found on the sample of all countries are mostly driven by
635 price responsiveness of acreage in net producers of rapeseed. For instance, if hypothetical restrictions
636 in the EU imports of palm oil, due to food safety or environmental concerns, determine a surge in
637 imported price, more land is likely to be devoted to rapeseed cultivation in countries that tend to be
638 net producers of rapeseed (e.g. Czech, Germany, Estonia, Slovakia). Differently, an increase in
639 price of sunflower oil decreases the use of land for rapeseed in those countries.. Findings also reveal
640 that biofuel policies in the EU tend to be tailor-made on rapeseed oil which is domestically
641 produced and consumed; in fact, the ratio between trade (imports and exports) and production
642 constantly reduces overtime (it moves from 0.28 in 1992-1997 to 0.10 in 1998-2003, to 0.07 in
643 2004-2009 and 2010-2016, see table 4). Differently, for soy and sunflower oils trade dynamics are
644 more relevant than productive dynamics.

645

²⁸ The results of the sensitivity analyses are reported in the Appendix A.6.

646 **6. Concluding and policy implications**

647 The demand driven expansion in the vegetable oils market, due to an increasing request from the
648 biofuel industry, has tightened the linkages across markets. This phenomenon has interested also the
649 EU, where the growing expansion of biofuel production is mostly due to a political framework
650 implemented to achieve fuel security and environmental goals (Peri and Baldi, 2013). On top of
651 this, the prominent role that vegetable oils play in the new biofuel era and the constant attention to
652 the raising levels of GHG emissions, both direct and indirect (via land use changes), highlight the
653 importance of understanding cross-commodity linkages in the vegetable oils market. We
654 investigated the relationships among main sources of biodiesel in the EU, by examining how
655 quantities of palm, rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils react to changes in own prices and in prices of
656 related feedstocks. We also examined the acreage response of domestically produced feedstocks to
657 changes in prices of vegetable oils. The main scope was to understand the relationships among the
658 major inputs of first-generation biodiesel, in order to derive implications in terms of land use and on
659 the sustainability of biofuel policies in the EU.

660 The results highlighted a high competition among domestically produced vegetable oils, to the
661 benefits of imported palm oil. Our findings are in line with the acreage response of rapeseed to
662 changes in price of sunflower estimated by Guyomard et al. (1996) for the EU market. Our
663 estimates are also comparable with evidence from other cases study, such as the US market (e.g.
664 Arnade and Kelch, 2007; Hendrick et al., 2014; Kim and Moschini, 2018). In terms of land use
665 effects, we found that an increase in the price of imported palm oil results in a displacement effect
666 in land allocation to rapeseed cultivation. Such a displacement effects across vegetable oils are
667 likely to be induced by policies incentivising biofuel demand (Hamulczuk et al., 2019).

668 The price responsiveness found for vegetable oils allowed us to provide insights on the future
669 development of biofuel policies. A policy measure in the EU, incentivising the production of
670 renewable and environmental-friendly fuel from sustainable feedstocks, may determine an
671 expansion of biodiesel demand and a consequent increase in prices of feedstocks. The altered

672 equilibrium prices would increase the domestic production of soy and sunflower oils, as a result of
673 the high responsiveness of their supplies to own-prices. However, higher prices of domestically
674 produced oils, such as soy and rapeseed oils, would increase imports of palm oil. From an
675 environmental perspective, the hypothesised policy would be positive for the domestic market to the
676 extent that it stimulates the production of vegetable oils (soy and sunflower oils) with the highest
677 direct and indirect GHG saving (Edwards et al., 2017). However, the side-effects of such a policy
678 would be the expansion of oil palm plantations in extra-EU producing countries, with important
679 impacts in terms of indirect land use change emissions, and the increase in direct emissions due to
680 the transports of greater imported quantities of palm oil. These side-effects would deprive the
681 hypothesised policy of its twofold role: increase efficiency in the use of resources, while preventing
682 the production emissions.

683 Although attractive, the policy expectations for biofuel in the EU (e.g. GHG emissions reduction,
684 domestic energy security, agro-industrial development) are difficult to achieve together in particular
685 if vague or narrowly defined in regulations, as suggested by Hunsberger et al. (2017). Indeed, as
686 shown in the empirical results, the efficacy and efficiency of environmental-friendly biofuel
687 policies may depend on the interactions among biofuel feedstock markets. A policy framework for
688 biofuel in the EU that considers interdependencies among resources and among policy sectors,
689 accounting for path dependencies, are recommended to achieve a sustainability in the biofuel
690 market.

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838

839 **Appendix**

840 *A.1 Interpretation of price elasticities in the supply response equation*

841 The models in equations (1) and (2) are estimated in log form so to have coefficients easily
842 interpretable as elasticities. The elements of the matrix of coefficients of interest (**E**) in equation (2)
843 represent the own-PES (ε_{ii}) and the cross-PES (ε_{ij}) of supply. The own-PES quantifies how
844 quantities react to changes in its own price ($\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial p_i} \frac{p_i}{y_i}$); the cross-PES quantifies how quantities react to
845 a change in price of a different commodity ($\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial p_j} \frac{p_j}{y_i}$). In line with the economic theory, the own-PES
846 is expected to be non-negative, whereas the cross-PES is positive if the supply of i and j tend to
847 move together, and negative if the opposite is true. As for the magnitude of the coefficients, own-
848 PES or cross-PES greater than one in absolute value ($|\varepsilon| > 1$) characterise the supply as price
849 elastic, while own-PES or cross-PES lower than one in absolute value ($|\varepsilon| < 1$) are typical of price
850 inelastic supply. As suggested in Britz and Hertel (2011), the magnitude of own-PES or cross-PES
851 depends on the relative importance of the vegetable oil, the flexibility of the supply, and the
852 substitutability of vegetable oils.

853

854 *A.2 Acreage response equations: controlling for the land constraint*

855 In a sensitivity analysis we estimate the model in equation (3) including own- and cross-lagged
 856 shares to maintain the land constraint $s_{rapeseed} + s_{soybeans} + s_{sunflower\ seeds} + s_{other} = 1$. The
 857 results, reported in table A.2, confirm main findings.

858

859 Table A.1. The share of rapeseed acreage increases (decreases) with a palm (sunflower) oil price increase.

Explanatory variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged rapeseed share	0.842*** (0.025)	0.005 (0.007)	0.017 (0.022)
Lagged soybeans share	-0.108 (0.0895)	0.727*** (0.026)	-0.062 (0.079)
Lagged sunflower seeds share	0.0645* (0.039)	0.026** (0.011)	0.749*** (0.034)
Palm oil (log)	0.014** (0.007)	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.006)
Rapeseed oil (log)	0.046 (0.030)	-0.007 (0.009)	0.002 (0.027)
Soy oil (log)	0.017 (0.011)	0.008*** (0.003)	-0.004 (0.010)
Sunflower oil (log)	-0.058** (0.026)	-0.001 (0.008)	0.005 (0.023)
RMSE	0.005	0.002	0.005
R-squared	0.960	0.954	0.975

860 Notes: Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3). Shares for other uses are the
 861 baseline. The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate
 862 statistical significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%.

863

864 *A.3 Descriptive statistics*

865 The table A.2 provides descriptive statistics of key variables.

866

867 Table A.2. Descriptive statistics for key variables.

Variable	$\mu_x (\pm\sigma_x)$				
	[\underline{x} ; \bar{x}]				
	Production (Tg)	Imports (Tg)	Exports (Tg)	Acreage (share)	Price (\$/t)
Palm oil	00.00 (± 00.00)	40.30 (± 18.52)	1.01 (± 0.42)	0.00 (± 0.00)	902.93 (± 437.06)
	[00.00; 00.00]	[15.30; 69.69]	[0.46; 2.00]	[0.00; 0.00]	[229.64; 1,929.77]
Rapeseed oil	61.46 (± 28.22)	1.93 (± 2.14)	3.92 (± 2.76)	0.02 (± 0.03)	983.42 (± 147.43)
	[23.11; 106.03]	[0.03; 7.28]	[0.52; 9.44]	[0.00; 0.10]	[786.72; 1,389.50]
Soy oil	26.03 (± 2.34)	2.97 (± 3.30)	6.84 (± 2.61)	0.002 (± 0.01)	1,010.43 (± 160.40)
	[22.20; 32.45]	[0.04; 10.38]	[2.44; 10.52]	[0.00; 0.05]	[800.77; 1,483.36]
Sunflower oil	24.16 (± 4.05)	6.85 (± 4.25)	2.24 (± 1.02)	0.01 (± 0.03)	1,137.11 (± 211.83)
	[18.08; 32.32]	[1.08; 13.00]	[0.87; 4.58]	[0.00; 0.15]	[926.79; 1,637.08]

868 Notes: Descriptive statistics are mean (μ_x), standard deviation (σ_x), minimum (\underline{x}), and maximum (\bar{x}) of variables (x). Tg stands for
869 10^{12} g.

870

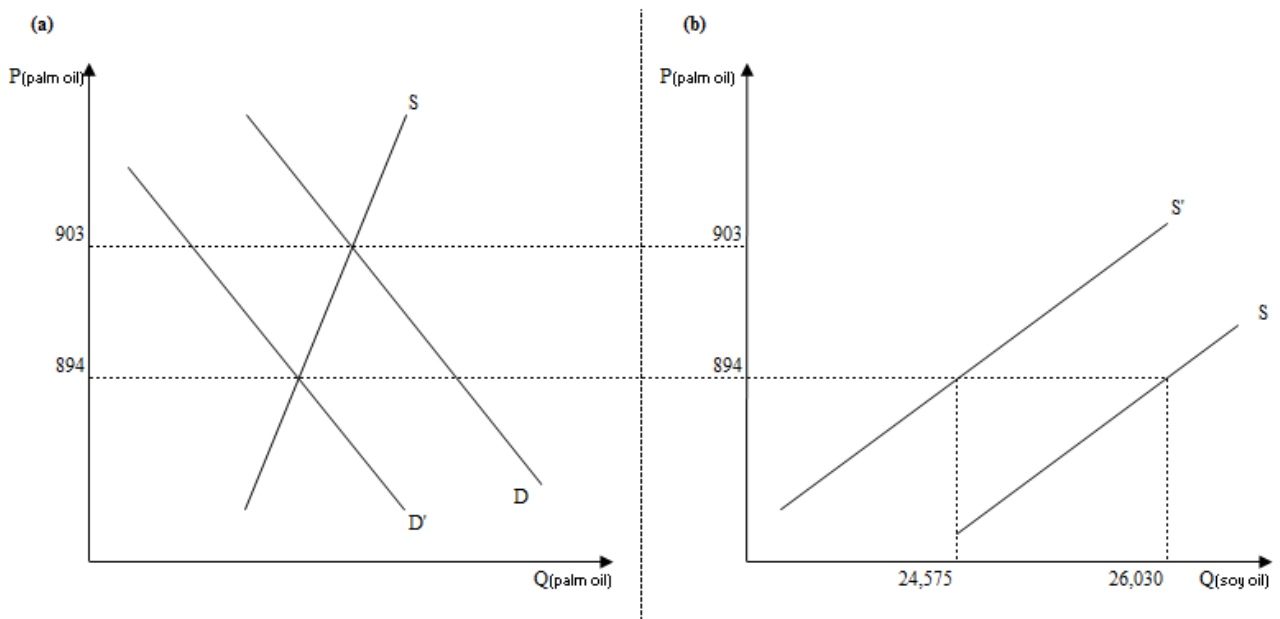
871 *A.4 Comparing supplies of vegetable oils in the EU and the US*

872 Our results show (see table 5) that palm and soy oils to be closely related: the market for palm oil
873 tends to expand with upward prices in soy oil market, and vice-versa. In particular, the cross-PES of
874 palm oil to soy oil price is elastic (+1.1), whereas the cross-PES of soy oil to palm oil prices is
875 inelastic (+0.5). In order to convey the implications of our findings we show, in figure A.1, how the
876 supply of soy oil tends to react to changes in palm oil price: for instance, the contraction of palm oil
877 demand in the EU (i.e. a leftward demand shift from D to D', shown in panel (a)), possibly due to
878 concerns risks related to the consumption of palm oil, would contract the supply of soy oil (i.e. a
879 leftward demand shift from S to S', shown in panel (b)). Panel (a) shows an inelastic supply for

880 palm oil (the own-PES equals 0.2, as from table 3), and price changes from 903 \$/t to 894 \$/t (one
881 percent reduction). The cross-PES between soy and palm oils (0.5, as from table 3) implies that a
882 price reduction for palm oil determines a (less than proportional) reduction in the available quantity
883 of soy oil (i.e. a leftward shift from S to S', as shown in panel (b)).

884

885 Figure A.1. Linkages between palm and soy oils markets.



886

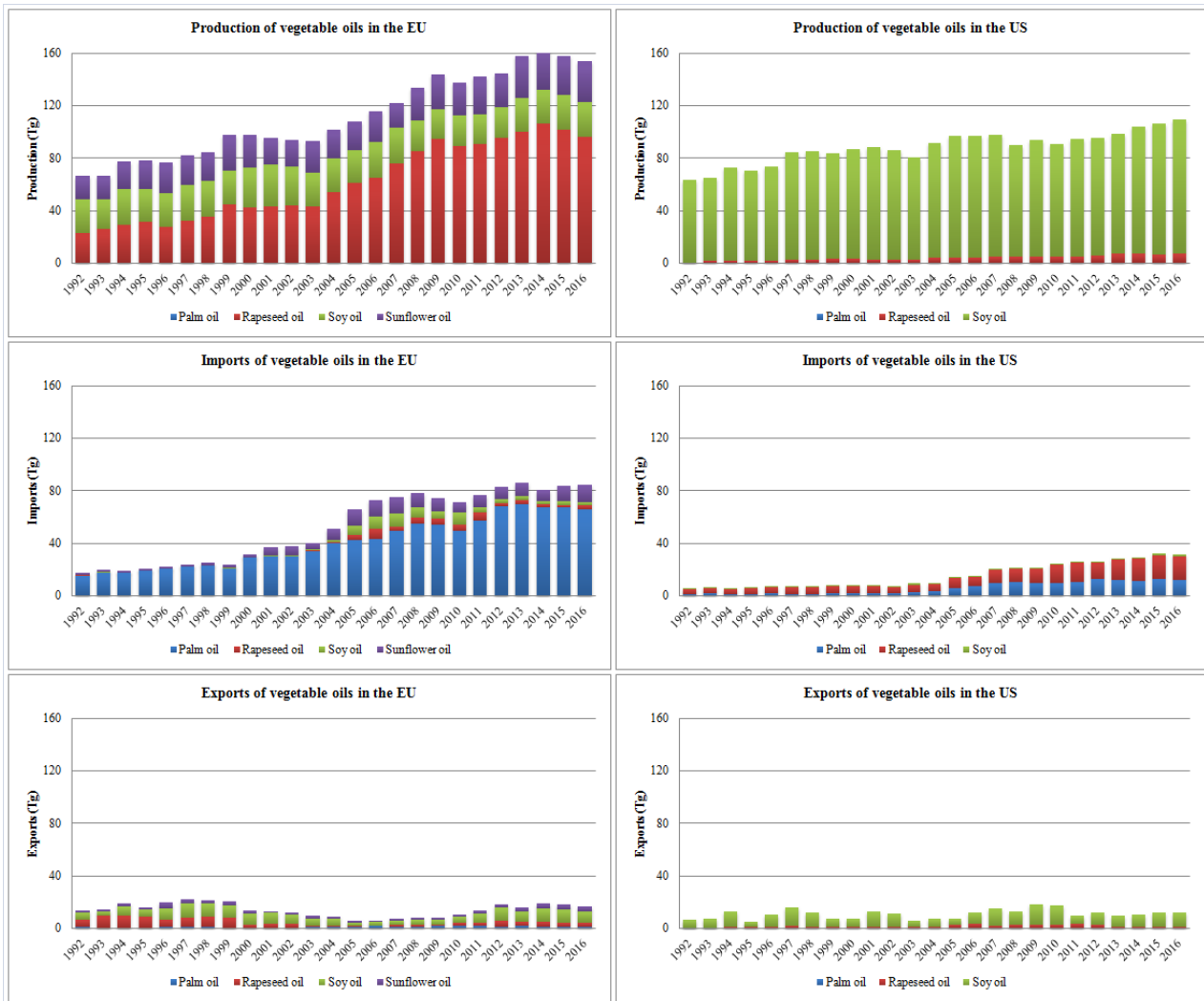
887

888 *A.5 Comparing supplies of vegetable oils in the EU and the US*

889 The figure A.1 shows the composition of supply of vegetable oils in the EU and in the US.

890

891 Figure A.2. Production, imports, and exports of vegetable oils in the European Union (EU) and in the United States (US), 1992-2016.



892

893 Source: Elaboration on data from USDA FAS PSDO. Tg stands for 10¹² g.

894

895 As regards palm oil, both the US and the EU are not producers: imports cover all domestic
 896 consumption. The US produces larger quantities of soy oil than the EU. In particular, the EU
 897 imports and crushes large quantities of whole soybeans in order to produce soy oil: domestic
 898 consumption is mainly due to domestic production. Rapeseed oil (canola oil in the US) has different

899 profiles in the two markets: the EU is a great producer, while the US domestic consumption is
 900 essentially based on imports. The EU widely consumes sunflower oil, and imports compensate an
 901 insufficient domestic production.

902

903 *A.6 Acreage response equations: sensitivity analyses*

904 We estimate the model in equation (3) without country fixed effects.

905

906 Table A.3. The share of rapeseed acreage increases (decreases) with a palm (sunflower) oil price increase.

Explanatory variables	Dependent variable s: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	1.003*** (0.011)	1.005*** (0.012)	1.014*** (0.008)
Palm oil (log)	0.0121* (0.007)	0.0004 (0.002)	0.002 (0.006)
Rapeseed oil (log)	0.048 (0.033)	-0.010 (0.010)	0.004 (0.029)
Soy oil (log)	0.013 (0.012)	0.008** (0.004)	-0.009 (0.010)
Sunflower oil (log)	-0.058** (0.028)	0.001 (0.009)	0.006 (0.024)
RMSE	0.006	0.002	0.005
R-squared	0.953	0.940	0.970

907 Notes: Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3). The system of equations includes
 908 time fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate statistical significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%.

909

910 We evaluated price responsiveness of oilseeds acreage in the post-biofuel era (since 2003, the year
 911 of entry into force of the first Biofuel Directive – 2003/30/EC). The aim of this analysis is to test if

912 acreage of oilseeds has a different responsiveness to changes in prices of vegetable oils pre- and
 913 post-biofuel era. Results are reported in table A.4.

914

915 Table A.4. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3); sample of years post-biofuel
 916 era (since 2003).

Variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	0.699*** (0.041)	0.359*** (0.057)	0.320*** (0.049)
Palm oil (log)	0.015** (0.007)	0.002 (0.002)	0.001 (0.005)
Rapeseed oil (log)	0.041 (0.031)	-0.004 (0.008)	-0.004 (0.022)
Soy oil (log)	0.022** (0.011)	0.011*** (0.003)	0.003 (0.008)
Sunflower oil (log)	-0.056** (0.027)	-0.004 (0.007)	0.005 (0.018)
R-squared	0.964	0.969	0.986

917 Notes: The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. *** and ** indicate
 918 statistical significance at 1% and 5%.

919

920 We divide the sample of countries in net producers of rapeseed (i.e. Belgium, Czech Republic,
 921 Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg,
 922 Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom) and net producers of soybeans
 923 and sunflower seeds (i.e. Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta,
 924 Portugal, Romania, Spain). Note that a country is a net producer of rapeseed if the average share of
 925 acreage intended to the cultivation of rapeseed is greater than the average share of acreage
 926 cultivated with soybeans and sunflower seeds; the opposite is true for net producers of soybeans and
 927 sunflower seeds. The results for the entire period and for the period post-biofuels are reported in

928 tables A.5 and A.6 for the sample of net producers of rapeseed and in tables A.7 and A.8 for the
 929 sample of net producers of soybeans and sunflower seeds.

930

931 Table A.5. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3); sample of net producers of
 932 rapeseed.

Variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	0.860*** (0.031)	0.969*** (0.028)	0.576*** (0.042)
Palm oil (log)	0.020** (0.009)	0.00004 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.004)
Rapeseed oil (log)	0.076* (0.042)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.009 (0.017)
Soy oil (log)	0.040*** (0.015)	0.002** (0.001)	-0.002 (0.006)
Sunflower oil (log)	-0.097*** (0.036)	0.001 (0.002)	0.008 (0.014)
R-squared	0.955	0.940	0.955

933 Notes: The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate
 934 statistical significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%.

935

936 Table A.6. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3); sample of net producers of
 937 rapeseed in post-biofuel era (since 2003).

Variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	0.662*** (0.053)	0.977*** (0.057)	-0.103* (0.056)
Palm oil (log)	0.022** (0.009)	0.00003 (0.001)	-0.0002 (0.003)
Rapeseed oil (log)	0.072* (0.044)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.008 (0.013)
Soy oil (log)	0.045*** (0.016)	0.002* (0.001)	0.005 (0.005)
Sunflower oil (log)	-0.094** (0.037)	0.001 (0.002)	0.003 (0.011)
R-squared	0.956	0.942	0.979

938 Notes: The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate
 939 statistical significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%.

940

941 Table A.7. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3); sample of net producers of
 942 soybeans and sunflower seeds.

Variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	0.767*** (0.043)	0.745*** (0.040)	0.759*** (0.050)
Palm oil (log)	0.004 (0.007)	0.002 (0.005)	0.007 (0.013)
Rapeseed oil (log)	-0.006 (0.033)	-0.016 (0.021)	0.017 (0.059)
Soy oil (log)	-0.014 (0.012)	0.019** (0.008)	-0.006 (0.021)
Sunflower oil (log)	0.004 (0.028)	-0.003 (0.018)	0.001 (0.050)
R-squared	0.895	0.951	0.973

943 Notes: The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. *** and ** indicate
 944 statistical significance at 1% and 5%.

945

946 Table A.8. Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE) estimation of the model in equation (3); sample of net producers of
 947 soybeans and sunflower seeds in post-biofuel era (since 2003).

Variables	Dependent variables: Share of acreage		
	Rapeseed	Soybeans	Sunflower seeds
Lagged dependent variable	0.766*** (0.060)	0.330*** (0.089)	0.407*** (0.075)
Palm oil (log)	0.004 (0.008)	0.004 (0.004)	0.004 (0.010)
Rapeseed oil (log)	-0.006 (0.037)	-0.008 (0.018)	0.005 (0.047)
Soy oil (log)	-0.014 (0.013)	0.022*** (0.007)	0.004 (0.017)
Sunflower oil (log)	0.004 (0.031)	-0.008 (0.016)	0.003 (0.039)
R-squared	0.902	0.969	0.987

948 Notes: The system of equations includes time and country fixed effects. Standard errors are in parentheses. *** indicates statistical
 949 significance at 1%.

950