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Trade Liberalisation and Exports in the Nigerian Economy: An Assessment

Philip O. Alege

Abstract

Various policy measures have been taken by the Nigerian government since the advent of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) to improve the external trade sector. This paper appraises the journey so far. Thus, it develops a mixed quantitative-qualitative model designed to evaluate export responses to trade liberalisation policies.

This paper, hypothesising a full effect of trade liberalisation in the long run, has adopted the co-integration and error correction technique to estimate the model. The results tend to suggest that trade liberalisation is mildly effective. Thus, there are areas that raise some doubts about the potency of trade liberalisation to bring about the desired economic growth and development propelled by international trade. This model can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of policy shifts, and hence its appropriateness to provide a background for fine-tuning policy to achieve the overall economic objectives.

Participatory Forest Management in Andhra Pradesh: A Review of Its Working

V. Ratna Reddy, M. Gopinath Reddy, Velayutham Saravanan, Madhusudan Bandi and Oliver Springate-Baginski

Abstract

This paper traces the emergence of Participatory Forest Management (PFM) regime in Andhra Pradesh in the form of Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Community Forest Management (CFM). The paper is based on the existing literature on forest policies. It considers the role of contemporary developments in India in shaping the forest policies in Andhra Pradesh. It also examines the process and quality of implementation and the impact of the programme on local communities and resources in Andhra Pradesh. JFM is a different concept from many earlier attempts to promote forestry needs of the people, simply because it builds from the roles played by both local forest users and the professionals employed by the state to act as custodians. The combined effort of community and government is the ultimate solution under prevailing circumstances. Therefore, the government intervention is expected to address the equity and transparency aspects to strengthen the voice of the poor. In the same way, participation of the people will warrant a constant vigil against all odds to protect the forests. Hence, Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSSs) should be viewed as an entity for an overall development of the village resources and its people, and not merely an instrument of developing the degraded forests, more so with the new initiative of graduation from JFM to CFM focusing on alleviating rural poverty.

If only the Humanity were Willing to Protect Environment, How would be the Day after Tomorrow?

Ioannis A. Kaskarelis

Abstract

Free market economy cannot survive without growth. Eternally expanding economies and human population deterministically deteriorate environmental problems. Man sees nature as antagonistic and now he has the capacity to appropriate and use according to his needs any area on earth, thanks to science and technology developments. On the other hand, representative democracy has been developed into a highly hierarchical and concentrated regime, and it seems to be there only to secure capitalism and economic growth all over the world. Therefore, we cannot expect that capitalism and its twin, representative democracy, will ever actually protect the environment. Otherwise, there should be some unprecedented policy reversals where the keystone would be the building up of a new educational system aiming at producing generally and humanistically well-educated graduates, mature and integrated personalities, good and honourable citizens, far away from today's rapid and meaningless specialisation of illiterate and arrogant graduates.

“And so the probable outcome of too much freedom is only too much slavery in the individual and the state.”

“Probably, then, tyranny develops out of no other constitution than democracy – from the height of liberty I take it, the fiercest extreme of servitude.”

Plato, Republic, H 564a 7, 8

Perceptions of Groundwater Sharing and Community Prosperity: An Ordered-Probit Approach

H. Diwakara

Abstract

This paper presents an ordered-probit approach to model the effects of 'objective' variables, such as age, education level, income, caste, household size and land endowment of farm households, on perceived (subjective) attitudes to groundwater sharing and community prosperity of the household. The independent variables used in this study represent the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the households and social capital. The results show that age, size of the landholding, household size and trust have significant influence on the household's attitude to groundwater sharing and community prosperity. The social variable, the education and economic variable, income have no significant effect on the household's subjective judgment on groundwater sharing and prosperity. This study suggests that while designing policies, the socio-economic and demographic attributes of the farmers and social capital be considered to reflect the altruism in the groundwater resource allocations.

Estimation of Technical Efficiency in the Stochastic Frontier Production Function Model - An Application to the Coffee-Based Mixed Cropping System

G. Venkatesh, K. Narendran and V. G. Dhanakumar

Abstract

Technical efficiency of coffee and inter crops is measured through the estimation of a stochastic frontier production function using the data for the year 2003-04. Variation in technical efficiency index across production units is explained through a number of managerial and estate characteristics variable that ranged from 41 to 98 per cent. The study has observed a positive influence of labour mandays, fertiliser applied, expenditure and plant protection chemicals on yield of coffee and its inter crops. The results indicate fairly high Mean Technical Efficiency for coffee estates at 86 per cent of the frontier yield. The coffee growers have recorded higher technical efficiency (96 per cent) for inter crops such as pepper and orange.