



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Evaluating the Economic and Environmental Impacts of a Global GMO Ban

Harry Mahaffey, Purdue University, harry.mahaffey@gmail.com
Farzad Taheripour, Purdue University, tfarzad@purdue.edu
Wallace E. Tyner, Purdue University, wtynr@purdue.edu

Selected Paper prepared for presentation at the 2016 Agricultural & Applied Economics
Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, July 31-August 2

Copyright 2016 by Harry Mahaffey, Farzad Taheripour, and Wallace E. Tyner. All rights reserved. Readers may make verbatim copies of this document for non-commercial purposes by any means, provided that this copyright notice appears on all such copies.

ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to assess the global economic and greenhouse gas emission impacts of GMO crops. This is done by modeling two counterfactual scenarios and evaluating them apart and in combination. The first scenario models the impact of a global GMO ban. The second scenario models the impact of increased GMO penetration. The focus is on the price and welfare impacts, and land use change greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with GMO technologies. Much of the prior work on the economic impacts of GMO technology has relied on a combination of partial equilibrium analysis and econometric techniques. However, Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modelling is a way of analyzing economy-wide impacts that takes into account the linkages in the global economy. Though it has been used in the context of GMO crops, the focus has been on the effects of various trade policies and regulatory regimes. Here the goal is to contribute to the literature on the benefits of GMO technology by estimating the impacts on price, supply and welfare. Food price impacts range from an increase of 0.27% to 2.2%, depending on the region. Total welfare losses associated with loss of GMO technology total up to \$9.75 billion. The loss of GMO traits as an intensification technology has not only economic impacts, but also environmental ones. The full environmental analysis of GMO is not undertaken here. Rather we model the land use change owing to the loss of GMO traits and calculate the associated increase in GHG emissions. We predict a substantial increase in GHG emissions if GMO technology is banned.

KEYWORDS

GMO Crops, Productivity, Computable General Equilibrium, Economic Impacts, Land Use Change, Land Use Emissions

Evaluating the Economic and Environmental Impacts of a Global GMO Ban

By

Harry Mahaffey, Farzad Taheripour, and Wallace E. Tyner

1. INTRODUCTION

Genetic modification has been a lightning rod for controversy since its introduction into agriculture in the early 1990s. With the development of commercially viable genetically modified field crops (insect resistant corn and herbicide tolerant soybeans in particular), the controversy only intensified. Indeed the controversy is such that some public intellectuals outside of agriculture have taken sides in the debate on GMO crops (including the economist Nassim Taleb (Bar-Yam, et al.), biologist Richard Dawkins (Dawkins, 1998) and philosopher Peter Singer (Singer and Daar, 2000)). Consumer fears about the danger of GMO crops include fears about the safety of genetically modified food for human consumption, the impact of GMO crops on the environment, and the effect of GMO crops on farms and farmers. These fears, along with some economic considerations, have led to significant regulatory obstacles to GMO crops worldwide.

However, consumer concerns are not paramount in the peer-reviewed literature on the subject. Rather, the evidence from agronomy, biology and public health indicates that GMO crops are not dangerous, and the evidence from economics shows that GMO crops are associated with positive economic outcomes, including for the poorest people. Many consumers in developed countries demonstrate a clear preference for non-GMO crops. A pretty substantial body of research exists around this subject. A large piece of it focuses on quantifying consumers preferences for non-GMO. This has included willingness-to-pay and willingness-to-accept analysis of consumer preference in various countries. Fernandez-Cornejo et al (Fernandez-Cornejo, et al., 2014) provide an overview of much of the research done in this area. Following Lusk et al (Lusk, et al., 2005), they conclude that while many consumers are willing to pay a premium for non-GMO foods, a good deal depends on where the study is being performed. In that work, Lusk et al perform a meta-analysis of studies focused on GM vs. non-GM valuation.

In Europe, the authors found that studies predicted a 42% premium for non-GM over GM, while in Asia that number fell to 16%. In Other (Other here covers any study focused on a region other than Europe or Asia), the sign flips and there is a 15% discount for GM over non-GM. Of course, the information provided to the respondents is an important factor in willingness-to-pay, and crops with potential benefits (such as Golden Rice, a genetically engineered rice cultivar that produces vitamin A) can often demand a premium over conventional varieties. That many consumers prefer non-genetically engineered varieties is not truly up for debate. What explains this preference is less clear. Part of the explanation seems to be that consumers do not just prefer non-GMO products, but actually fear the effects of genetic modification. Chiang et al (Chiang, et al., 2005) report that a substantial percentage of consumers across the world believe that GMO crops are dangerous for human consumption. In a more recent study, Costa-Font and Mossialos (Costa-Font and Mossialos, 2005) suggest that what they term dread of GMO crops is at least partially explained by lack of information. In the absence of information, consumers adopt a self-protective attitude that here is expressed as an anti-GMO attitude. This suggests that the preference for non-GMO emerges from a failure to communicate on the part of GMO advocates. In other work, Costa-Font

and Gil (Costa-Font and Gil, 2009) have found that meta-attitudes about science and technology can also explicate attitudes towards GMO crops.

Undoubtedly the picture of why consumers distrust and dis-prefer GMO crops and genetically engineered food is a complex one. Whatever the explanation, consumer fear of GMO crops and preference for non-GMO varieties is a fact. This is reflected in global agricultural policy. GMO crops are heavily regulated everywhere in the world, with partial or full bans on cultivation in many European and Asian countries. In China, according to the ISAA, there is only one variety of GMO maize approved for cultivation, and no varieties of GMO soybeans. There are a larger number of varieties approved for import, though imports tainted by unapproved varieties have been a source of some contention (2007, Shuping, et al., 2014). In Europe there are a variety of regulatory attitudes. In the EU in general, it is legal to import GMO crops and feed, so long as the GMO variety is one of the approved varieties. If shipments are found that include a certain percentage of an unapproved GMO variety, the shipment is refused. (2007) The EU also approves a certain number of GMO crops, though the individual member states are allowed to opt-out, through a variety of regulatory mechanisms. France and Germany have outright bans on growing GMO crops of any kind. Spain and the Czech Republic, on the other hand grow approved GMO crops in significant percentages. The United States is the world's leader in GMO crop planting and in the development of agricultural biotechnology. Indeed it is only very recently that the rest of the world's GMO planted acreage overtook the United States.(James, 2014). According to the ISAA, there are currently 189 GMO varieties currently approved for cultivation in the United States (across a wide variety of crops). Regulation of GMO crops is managed by three federal agencies: The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration (Fish and Rudenko, 2001). Though the United States is the largest producer and user of GMO technology, there continues to be resistance and opposition to GMO crops. Most recently, legislation around GMO labeling requirements has been a locus of scholarship. Anti-GMO activists and interest groups have attempted to enact public policy requiring the labeling of GMO foods as such. The battleground for this has been state level legislation, as described by Hemphill and Banerjee (Hemphill and Banerjee, 2015).

There are, by all appearances, two parallel discourses on GMO crops. The first takes place in non-scientific journals, newspapers, and magazines; the second, in the peer reviewed journals of economics and agronomy. This former is characterized by broad and unsupported claims and a certain degree of fear mongering. We cite here an example from *The Nation*. In an article on global GMO bans, the author claims, "No substantial evidence exists that GM crops yield more than conventional crops. What genetically engineered crops definitely do lead to is greater use of pesticide [...]." Both of these claims are demonstrably false, as the ample literature on yield improvement and farm-level impacts shows. Regardless, this is the tenor and tone of much of the anti-GMO discourse. The notion that GMO crops are dangerous to consumers is completely unsupported by the scientific evidence and the ever-growing literature on the safety of GMO crops for human consumption. Following Hemphill and Banerjee (Hemphill and Banerjee, 2015) we cite here the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences statement on GMO crops from 2012: "consuming foods containing ingredients derived from GM crops is no riskier than consuming the same foods containing ingredients from crop plants modified by conventional plant improvement techniques." As for the agronomic safety of GMO crops, here the literature is quite technical, but has essentially the same conclusion. No conclusive evidence for any special effect on soil by GMOs has been found (Motavalli, et al., 2004, Mungai, et al., 2005). Indeed, as we have

seen, GMO crops are subject to a quite stringent process of testing and regulation everywhere they are used. Finally, the notion that GMO crops hurt small farmers and damage farm incomes is addressed head on by the literature (see for instance Vitale et al (Vitale, et al., 2007) on smallholders in Mali). At the farm-level, GMO crops improve yields, diminish pesticide and herbicide use, and confer productivity benefits (Qaim, 2009).

In what follows, we examine two distinct scenarios. Both use the 2013 yield improvement estimates from Brookes and Barfoot's data (Brookes and Barfoot, 2015). We propose here to examine two counterfactuals. The first asks, "What would be different if there was no GMO technology?" The second asks, "What would be the impact if GMO adoption globally caught up to the United States?" By examining these scenarios individually as well as in combination, we can derive conclusions about both the current value, both economic and environmental, of GMO crops. We can also reflect on the possible future value of GMO crops.

The first scenario is the most straightforward. It assumes that GMO penetration is exactly what it was as of 2013 in each region. This case asks what would be the economic and GHG impacts of switching from GMO to conventional, assuming GMO crops would remain at their current level of penetration. By shocking each country with a weighted negative yield shock, we reduce the yield in those countries to the conventional yield. This first scenario provides the current benefits due to GMO crops.

However, not all countries are experiencing the full potential benefits of GMO technology. Our assumption is that relatively low penetration in other countries is not due to those countries capping the optimal planted area of GMO crops to the current penetration. Indeed as the ISAA data shows (James, 2014), GMO planted acres have been steadily increasing in the rest of the world. Not only that, but while the United States has some of the highest levels of GMO penetration, United States farmers do not derive unusually large yield increases, relative to other countries (Qaim and Zilberman, 2003). Thus the slower adoption must be due to other causes, whether due to restrictive agricultural policy (in the form of partial bans), or the relatively slow dissemination of technology. We model the effects of increasing the penetration of GMO crops in the rest of the world to the penetration rate achieved in the US. This in turn provides a picture of the as yet unrealized potential benefits of GMO crops. While the first scenario asks 'How much better off are we?' the second asks 'How much better off could we be?'

In order to set the penetration of GMOs in the rest of the world, the United States is used as a baseline. Another approach would be to select penetration levels that seem reasonable on a country-by-country basis. While that might seem a more complete approach, in the end it would require more somewhat arbitrary assumptions than using a country with high GMO penetration as a starting point. Actual adoption might be higher or lower than predicted by basing penetration off of the United States. The literature on technology adoption is significant but parsing it and selecting an appropriate econometric model falls outside the scope of this work. Penetration in the second scenario is set at the current level of US penetration unless the country already has a higher level, in which case the higher level is retained.

The only countries included in the second scenario are countries with GMO crops already planted. Obviously, it is possible that other countries in the future will permit GMO varieties, so our analysis represents a very conservative estimate of GMO benefits. While other countries likely would benefit from GMO crops, policy is political, not strictly economic. Thus, the estimates provided assume no complete policy changes from current policy.

2. METHODOLOGY

The data used for this study consists in a set of yield shocks for the three main GMO crops (soybeans, corn, and cotton) by country. These crops were chosen because they represent the vast majority of GMO acreage planted (James, 2014). They are also the three crops with the fullest global data (Brookes and Barfoot, 2015) and the greatest global economic impacts (Brookes and Barfoot, 2012, Qaim, 2009). The basic yield shock assumptions are drawn from Brookes and Barfoot (Brookes and Barfoot, 2015, Brookes and Barfoot, 2015) review of the literature. These numbers are then combined with data on current GMO penetration in the United States and the rest of the world in order to produce estimates of realistic yield shocks by crop and country.

Derivation of Yield Shocks

The literature on yield impacts of GMO crops used in this work derives the yield improvement associated with GE traits. In order to derive shocks usable in the GTAP model, we must first derive the yield shocks for each trait. These are weighted by area, and the overall yield impact of GMO technology for the crop is determined. Finally, these weighted yield shocks are weighted according to the crop share in the GTAP crop grouping and an adjustment for regional aggregation. The derivation follows.

We define the yield of some country, Y , as the sum of the conventional yield and the GMO yield, weighted by their respective penetrations. Penetration here is understood as the proportion of the total area planted to each variety and is defined such that,

$$(1) \quad P_c = 1 - P_g$$

Where P_c is the penetration of conventional varieties and P_g is the penetration of GMO varieties. The yield of the GMO varieties is defined in terms of the yield of conventional varieties and the GMO yield improvement such that,

$$(2) \quad Y_g = Y_c \times (1 + Y_i)$$

Where Y_g is the GMO yield, Y_c is the conventional yield and Y_i is the yield improvement. Thus by (1) and (2), (3) and (4) can be shown to be equivalent.

$$(3) \quad Y = Y_c \times P_c + Y_g \times P_g$$

$$(4) \quad Y = Y_c(1 + Y_i P_g)$$

Thus we have derived current yield in terms of conventional yield, GMO yield improvement and GMO penetration. In our first scenario, our aim is to determine the impact of switching over exclusively to conventional crops. In order to do so, we define an x such that

$$(5) \quad x \times Y = Y_c$$

That is, x is the fraction of the original yield obtained if GMO varieties are no longer available. By plugging in the identity in equation (4), we put x in terms of yield improvement and GMO penetration.

$$(6) \quad x = \frac{1}{1+Y_i P_g}$$

Equation (7) is equivalent to equation (6), and gives the yield loss associated with switching over to exclusively conventional crops.

$$(7) \quad x - 1 = \frac{-Y_i P_g}{1+Y_i P_g}$$

Thus for instance, if the yield without any GMO crops would be 96% of current yield, then that counterfactual yield is $0.96-1 = -4\%$ lower than current yield.

We consider also a scenario in which penetration of GMO crops increases. Our goal is to derive the change in yield given the change in penetration, yield improvement and the original penetration. We assume that only penetration changes-conventional and GMO yield remain as they were. The change in yield is given by equation (8).

$$(8) \quad Y_2 - Y_1 = Y_c(1 + Y_i P_{g2}) - Y_c(1 + Y_i P_{g1})$$

Where Y_2 is the yield after increased penetration and Y_1 is the current yield, with P_{g2} and P_{g1} the respective penetrations. Equation (8) simplifies to equation (9).

$$(9) \quad \Delta Y = Y_c Y_i (P_{g2} - P_{g1})$$

From equation (4) and equation (9), we derive equation (10).

$$(10) \quad \Delta Y = Y_1 \times \frac{Y_i (P_{g2} - P_{g1})}{(1 + Y_i P_{g1})}$$

Thus the positive yield shock given an increase in penetration from P_{g1} to P_{g2} is as given in equation (11).

$$(11) \quad Y_s = \frac{Y_i (P_{g2} - P_{g1})}{(1 + Y_i P_{g1})}$$

Where Y_s is the positive yield shock.

GMO crops do not always include only one trait. Indeed, in the United States, a majority of the corn (~75% (Fernandez-Cornejo, et al., 2014)) is stacked-trait. A single cultivar might include several kinds of insect resistance and herbicide resistance. There are three possibilities for interaction effects in GE traits-the trait impacts can be additive, more than additive or less than additive. The implicit assumption in Brookes and Barfoot's work is that the traits are additive. Given the damage control framework for thinking about yield improvement (Lichtenberg and

Zilberman, 1986), additivity is a reasonable simplifying assumption. Thus the yield shock by crop for each country is simply the sum of the total yield shocks of every trait for a given crop. This is expressed in equation (12).

$$(12) \quad Y_i P_g = Y_a P_a + Y_b P_b + \dots + Y_n P_n$$

Where Y_j is the yield improvement associated with some trait j and P_j is the penetration of that trait.

Table 1, Table 12, and Table 3 give the weighted yield shocks on a per crop basis for each relevant country.

<Table 1>

<Table 2>

<Table 3>

These country shocks must then be converted into GTAP shocks. This happens in two steps. GTAP aggregates countries into regions and aggregates crops into categories. The first step, then, is to convert the country shocks by crop into regional shocks by crop. This is done by weighting each country's shock by the proportion of the regions total planted area for the relevant crop. Once this has been accomplished, we can convert the regional shocks by crop into regional shocks by category. The final shocks are reproduced in Tables 4, 5 and 6.

<Table 4>

<Table 5>

<Table 6>

Yield impacts

The impact of GMOs on yield can be difficult to calculate. Not only are there structural and causal difficulties (which are specific to the type of study), but also year-to-year, the impact can be different. Since Bt traits increase yield through damage mitigation, pest pressure affects the difference between GMO and conventional yields. In a year with high pest pressure, the GMO crop will outperform the conventional variety much more than in a year with low pest pressure. For the same reason, there is considerable regional variation (see for instance (Piggott and Marra, 2007)). Studies take different approaches to identifying the yield impact due specifically to the inserted trait. Field trials, empirical results, econometric analyses and meta-analyses are the main approaches. Most studies summarize impacts at the national or global level. The yield impact assumptions in Brookes and Barfoot's work are supported by the extant literature where available, and farmer survey data where not. The reader is referred to their work (see refs. 18 and 29) for further elucidation. We provide some context for the yield impacts given by Brookes and Barfoot.

Corn yield

Corn yield impacts in the United States have been the most researched of any GMO trait in any region. Nolan and Santos (Nolan and Santos, 2012) provide an overview of this research. They

find that yields fall by approximately 7% in the switch from stacked to conventional. This is in keeping with the estimates provided by Brookes and Barfoot. Shyrock (Shryock, 2013) reviews the literature and finds yield impacts varying between 6.6% and 10.3% between 2005-2010, though this is already weighted by area (thus the 2010 figure is highest because of the greater penetration achieved by that point). This suggests slightly higher yield impacts than those adopted in this work.

In the Philippines, more recent work finds that Bt corn led to 33% and 45% higher predicted yields in 2003 and 2007 respectively (Mutuc, et al., 2011). The improvement in the Philippines is especially sensitive to yearly factors (weather, pest pressure, etc....). The 18% figure used by Brookes and Barfoot is a relatively conservative one. In Argentina, other literature confirms the 5.5% figure used in this work- Burachick (Burachik, 2010) reports that Bt corn improves yields by 5% to 9%. No work has been done specifically on Uruguayan Bt corn yields. For this reason Brookes and Barfoot assume Uruguay benefits as Argentina does. A similar approach is taken for Paraguay. Colombia, where farm survey data is used, does not have a large extant literature. For Brazil, earlier field trial data suggested that Bt corn produced yield 24% higher than conventional varieties (Huesing and English, 2004). Brookes and Barfoot rely on more recent farmer surveys for their figure, which is more conservative. In Spain, other work estimating the economic impact of Bt corn on farms uses a slightly lower number (around 9%) (Venus, et al., 2011). However the value used in Brookes and Barfoot's work comes from a more recent study. The Czech Republic and Portugal do not have a lot of literature on Bt corn yield improvement, so it is difficult to put the estimates in context. In South Africa, the yield figures used correspond to the accepted figures in the literature around the benefits of Bt corn (see for instance Kruger et al (Kruger, et al., 2009) in their discussion of pest resistance).

Soybean yield

The assumption that first generation soybeans provide no yield advantage in most of the world is consistent across the literature. In general, herbicide tolerance provides no yield improvement. The adoption of herbicide tolerant soybeans is not a function of yield improvement, but rather a function of cost and time savings (Marra, et al., 2002, Trigo and Cap, 2006). There are only two assumptions made by Brookes and Barfoot with respect to soybean yields. The first is that farmers in the United States who have planted second generation soybeans have experienced yield gains (Brookes and Barfoot, 2015). The technology is new, so there is not a large amount of data yet available for the rest of the world. The second is that Bolivia experiences a yield improvement with herbicide tolerant soybeans. This is confirmed in further work by Smale et al on the impact of soybeans in Bolivia (Smale, et al., 2012).

Cotton yield

In the United States, there are two major types of Bt cotton planted: Bollgard 1 and Bollgard 2. The figures used by Brookes and Barfoot are conservative. They use yield increases around 10%, which corresponds to work by Verhalen et al (Verhalen, et al., 2003). Other pieces of the literature support yield increases from 15% up to 25% and even higher depending on year and region (ICAC, 2003, Piggott and Marra, 2007, Sankula, 2006). In Argentina, the primary work done on yield improvement in cotton is the work cited by Brookes and Barfoot. However, they acknowledge using the lower of the estimates in the data (30% yield improvement) rather than the higher numbers found in Qaim and De Janvry (35% yield improvement) (Qaim and De Janvry, 2005). Brazil's figures are based on as yet unpublished farm survey data-it is therefore difficult to put the

figures into context. In Colombia, the figures used in this work are conservative. Earlier farm survey work found an average yield improvement of 35% for Bt over conventional (Tripp, 2009). In Mexico, the main work on GMO yield improvement for cotton was done by Traxler, who noted in 2004 that the improvements due to GMO are highly variable year to year (Traxler and Godoy-Avila, 2004). In South Africa, econometric analysis by Gouse et al (Gouse, et al., 2005) find varying yield improvements for Bt cotton depending on farm size. These improvements range from around 14% to around 46%. Other work using farm survey data found farmers using GMO varieties obtained yields at least 56% greater than farmers using conventional varieties through three seasons of planting (Bennett, et al., 2006). The work on GMO yield improvement in Burkina Faso is the work cited in Brookes and Barfoot's data-there is no other literature to put these numbers in context. In China, the figures used here align with the overall consensus-that China experiences roughly 10% yield improvement for Bt over conventional varieties (Qiao, 2015). Some work finds slightly lower figures, closer to 6% (Huang, et al., 2002). The difference can be explained by regional and seasonal differences in the data being used. In India, earlier work found GMO yield improvements of 37% on average across three seasons (Subramanian and Qaim, 2010). Other studies confirm this magnitude of yield improvement (Gandhi and Namboodiri, 2006), though some work points to even higher yield improvements (80%) (Pemsl, et al., 2004). In Pakistan, the yield improvement for Bt over conventional used here is in line with other empirical analysis (Ali and Abdulai, 2010).

Model description

Computable General Equilibrium

General equilibrium models are economic models that attempt to solve for the equilibrium conditions in the economy, by modeling the behaviors of three agents: households, firms and the government. Based on the assumptions about these behaviors (e.g. profit maximizing firms, or utility maximizing households), a CGE model determines demands for and supplies of goods and services while it takes into account resource constraints. The fundamental difference between general equilibrium and partial equilibrium approaches is in the endogeneity of prices and quantities. In a general equilibrium model, prices and quantities are all endogenously determined. Variables like population or taxes are set exogenously but the model solves for price and quantity across all markets in the model. Contrast this to partial equilibrium models, in which the prices and quantities of some markets can be determined endogenously, but some price(s) (or quantity) is given exogenously. This fundamental difference gives rise to a number of broad differences in approach. These differences are not themselves fundamental, but they are motivated by the fundamental difference. General equilibrium models stand in contrast to partial equilibrium models in the way they approach the relationships among markets. In partial equilibrium models, the focus is commonly on a single market or a few markets in isolation from the other parts of the economy. In general equilibrium analyses, the goal is to determine the equilibrium conditions across the whole global economy. This means accounting for linkages across markets in an economy including both product and factor markets is much more important in general equilibrium approaches. Computable general equilibrium models are used for economy-wide analysis. They are necessarily built out of input - output tables representing all goods and services produced, consumed and traded given primary factors of production including labor, land, capital, and resources. A typical input - output table represents the extent to which industries are reliant on the outputs of other industries. It also captures the links between the economic agents represented

in the model: firms, households and the government. Together these tools arguably capture the linkages that characterize specific economies. Another important piece of any CGE model are the elasticities - these parameters capture a wide variety of responses to change across an economy (for instance, relevant here are elasticities that capture the conversion of land in response to changing agricultural commodity prices). Obviously solving for the global general equilibrium requires a considerable amount of data and computational power.

GTAP-BIO

The model used in this work is an extension of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) framework developed by Thomas Hertel (1997). There are two parallel features of GTAP: the model, which attempts to capture the structural features of the global economy and the database built from social accounting matrices for countries that are then aggregated by region. The GTAP database is unique. It contains country input and output data, along with other empirical data representing relationships among markets and industries, and relationships between countries. The database is updated periodically, and new versions are created that attempt to capture the most up to date information on the state of the global economy. It is worth noting too that the GTAP model is a comparative static model - thus we are comparing the current economic situation to the economic situation given certain changes. The changes are not changes ‘over time’ but rather counterfactual comparisons. Since its creation, a number of advancements, both in the modeling techniques and in the collection of data have made GTAP one of the preeminent CGE modeling frameworks and data bases. The information for the GTAP database is drawn from a number of sources. These include the World Bank, the UN Statistics Division, the CIA World Factbook, as well as individual country’s statistic’s departments. Some of these advancements include the disaggregation of land by agro - ecological zone (AEZ) (Lee, et al., 2005)

As biofuels began to experience a revival in interest and production (based on the aggressive goals of the Renewable Fuel Standard), they were integrated into both the GTAP database and model, leading to the GTAP - BIO model (Taheripour, et al., 2007). This version of the model and the database capture not just the biofuels themselves, but also the secondary byproducts of biofuel production (e.g. dried distiller’s grains). This model was subsequently used to quantify the economic and environmental impacts not just of agricultural policy and trade policy, but also of a variety of other kinds of public policy (energy, water, etc...) (Hertel, et al., 2010, Liu, et al., 2014, Taheripour, et al., 2011).

In a more recent work, Taheripour and Tyner have calibrated the model using empirical evidence on global land use change in the post - biofuel boom world (Taheripour and Tyner, 2013). The authors modify the elasticities of transformation for the types of land in the model (forest, pasture, and crop) and modify the structure of land supply as shown in Figure 1. As in all research using the GTAP - BIO framework, the time horizon is medium term. This is understood here to mean on the order of 5 to 8 years - thus any of the economic and land use impacts are taking place over that time frame.

<Figure 1>

In the original model, all land use types are in the same nest - the assumption underlying this decision is that forest and pasture have the same ease of transformation to cropland. The new two level nest implicitly assumes that pasture is easier and less expensive to convert than forest.

The two level nest version of the model is used in this work. Using this model allows us to account for the effect of GMO yield shocks on land use change in the presence of global biofuel production. It also allows us to quantify more accurately the land use impacts of falling yields, which is of critical importance for this work.

The database used in this work is the most recent available. It represents the global economy in 2011. There are 19 regions, some of which are composed of individual countries, others of which aggregate country level data. Goods and services are aggregated into 52 categories, which include individual commodities (e.g. soybeans) as well as aggregated categories (e.g. coarse grains).

Closure modifications for this thesis

Only two major modifications to the model's closure are made. The first is required in order to shock yields, and mostly technical. The basic model sets a limited number of variables as exogenous, with the rest being determined by the model (or endogenously). Since yield is not one of the exogenous variables, we swap yield with a technological change variable ('afall') that is exogenous. The other modification is that biofuel production is fixed in the EU, Brazil and the United States. These three regions produce the vast majority of biofuels in the 2011 database (approximately 89%). The economics of biofuels are complicated. In particular, it is not the case that biofuel production is dictated by straightforward production cost and demand. In the United States, for instance, biofuel production is dominated by the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Whether or not biofuel policy would change in the face of falling yields is beyond the scope of this work. Instead, we assume that biofuel production from the main producing regions remains constant, as the focus here is not on biofuels, but on GMO yield shocks. This also allows us to compare our counterfactual scenarios for price, welfare and the environment with the actual world more readily. We do note that fixing biofuels production quantity makes this analysis technically a partial equilibrium analysis. However, since we are still using a CGE framework we consider our work here to fall under the broad heading of general equilibria and to contribute to the general equilibrium literature.

Scenario descriptions

In what follows, we examine two distinct scenarios. Both use the 2013 yield improvement estimates from Brookes and Barfoot's data. We propose here to examine two counterfactuals. The first asks, "What would be different if there was no GMO technology?" The second asks, "What would be the impact if GMO adoption globally caught up to the United States?" By examining these scenarios individually as well as in combination, we can derive conclusions about both the current and future value, both economic and environmental, of GMO crops.

The first scenario is the most straightforward. It assumes that GMO penetration is exactly what it was as of 2013 in each region. This case asks what would be the economic and land use GHG

impacts of switching from GMO to conventional. By shocking each country with a weighted negative yield shock, we reduce the yield in those countries to the conventional yield. This first scenario provides the current benefits due to GMO crops.

However, currently not all countries are experiencing the full potential benefits of GMO technology. Our assumption is that relatively low penetration in other countries is not due to those countries capping the optimal planted area of GMO crops to the current penetration. Indeed as the ISAA data shows (James, 2014), GMO planted acres have been steadily increasing in the rest of the world. Not only that, but while the United States has some of the highest levels of GMO penetration, United States farmers do not derive unusually large yield increases, relative to other countries (Qaim and Zilberman, 2003). Thus the slower adoption must be due to other causes, whether due to restrictive agricultural policy (in the form of partial bans), or the relatively slow dissemination of technology. We model the effects of increasing the penetration of GMO crops in the rest of the world to the penetration rate achieved in the US. This in turn provides a picture of the as yet unrealized potential benefits of GMO crops. While the first scenario asks ‘How much better off are we?’ the second asks ‘How much better off could we be?’

In order to set the penetration of GMOs in the rest of the world, the United States is used as a baseline. Another approach would be to select penetration levels that seem reasonable on a country - by - country basis. While that might seem a more complete approach, in the end it would require more somewhat arbitrary assumptions than using a country with high GMO penetration as a starting point. Actual adoption might be higher or lower than predicted by basing penetration off of the United States. The literature on technology adoption is significant but parsing it and selecting an appropriate econometric model falls outside the scope of this work. Penetration in the second scenario is set at the current level of US penetration unless the country already has a higher level, in which case the higher level is retained.

The only countries included in the second scenario are countries with GMO crops already planted. Obviously, it is possible that other countries in the future will permit GMO varieties, so our analysis represents a conservative estimate of GMO benefits. While other countries likely would benefit from GMO crops, policy is political, not strictly economic. Thus, the estimates provided assume no complete policy changes from current policy.

Finally, there are other concerns that are not addressed here – for instance, the overall yield impact of increasing penetration of GMO crops. What is the impact on yield improvement of higher penetration? Are conventional yields boosted by high penetration of GMO crops? Again, the appeal here is to minimal but explicit assumptions. The assumption here is that yield improvement is not sensitive to penetration level, so again it is a conservative case.

There are two ways of thinking about the results of these simulations. The first is to consider them independently, as they were presented above. This consists in interpreting each simulation as an independent counterfactual. We can also combine the results of the two cases to gain a different perspective on overall GMO impacts. The original results for scenario 1 are negative and for scenario 2 positive. However, if we consider scenario 2 as an opportunity lost, we can change the signs of some of the results and add them to scenario 1 results to get combined GMO impacts. This approach can be taken for GHG emissions and welfare impacts. It cannot however be used for commodity and food price impacts.

For each of these scenarios, we also run the simulation fixing food. This is done in response to concerns that the model will lower food consumption in the presence of a yield shock in an unrealistic way (Searchinger, et al., 2015). As is to be expected, the economic impacts are slightly larger and the land use conversion is slightly greater. However, fixing food does not change the results in which we are interested in a substantial way. Thus the detailed results of those simulations are not reported here. We provide some of the main results in appendix A.

3. RESULTS

The results of this work are divided into three sections. We begin by examining the results of the first scenario—that is, the simulation in which we model the disappearance of GMO technology. This is followed by a similar summary of the second scenario (higher GMO penetration). The third section presents the combination of the outcomes from the two scenarios. The full results of the simulation cover a wide range of outcomes. In the following we present selected economic and environmental impacts. Each section covers global outcomes, United States' outcomes, and outcomes for the rest of the world.

Simulation 1

Economic Impacts

In examining economic impacts, we examine supply effects, price effects, and welfare outcomes.

Global outcomes

Global production of agricultural crops does not fall much, as the GMO commodities make up a relatively small proportion of global production. Only corn, soybeans, and cotton are included in GMO varieties, and those represent a relatively small (but increasing) share of the global total. The crop for which production falls the most in percentage terms is soybeans (1.40%), which is largely driven by the fact that it is a separate commodity in the version of GTAP used for this study. Sorghum has the greatest gains (1.13%), again mainly because it is a separate commodity. For sorghum, it is also starting from a small base, which grows as it substitutes for corn.

The supply price of these commodities is affected more significantly. This is an economically intuitive result. The supply price of other coarse grains (which includes corn) increases by 3.49%, and the supply price of soybeans increases by 4.05%. Table 7 summarizes the impact on supply and supply prices at the global level. The lowest price increases are for rice (1.58%) and wheat (1.90%), and those lower increases are related to the fact that wheat and rice are food grains, while coarse grains, sorghum, and soybeans are used for animal feed. There is less substitution between food and feed crops.

<Table 7>

Overall, the price of food is less significantly affected (increasing by only 0.8%). This is because the price of food includes not only the constituent commodities, but also costs of labor, processing, packaging, etc. Of course, although the change in price is small, the absolute numbers are significant. In 2010, according to the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization, total expenditure on food totaled approximately \$6 trillion. Thus a 0.8% price increase amounts to close to \$49 billion dollars (if consumption quantities remained fixed, which they do not). There is a global welfare loss of \$8.5 billion, though as with food price, a closer analysis of each region is important in understanding the dynamics of the welfare change.

US outcomes

In the United States, production is affected more than the global average. Table 8 summarizes the supply effects of GMO disappearance. This is to be expected, as the United States has high GMO penetration relative to the rest of the world. Again we note the impact on sorghum, which is driven by the same features in the US as it is globally. It is a substitute for other coarse grains, starts from a small base, and has no acreage planted to GMO (so experiences no yield loss). Palm oil supply increases for analogous reasons. It is a substitute for soybean oil and has no GMO varieties, so yields do not fall. Even crops without GMO improvements experience both a reduction in supply and an increase in price. For instance, wheat and rice have no significant acreage planted to GMO varieties. Regardless they both experience supply decreases, of 3.35% and 2.42% respectively. The limiting factor is agricultural land. Without GMO traits, more land is needed to produce the affected commodities, so less is available for all other agricultural crops. Of course, while the price impacts are largest for the commodities that are directly affected by yield loss (with price increases of 6.74% for coarse grains and 6.48% for soybeans), the effects on price are not limited to those commodities. Sugar experiences a surprising price increase of 5.1%. Though the commodity price impacts are considerably above the global average, the effect on food prices is less so. This is explained by greater consumption of processed foods, whose prices are less affected for the reasons described above. However, while the relative numbers are small, total U.S. expenditure on food in 2013 was \$1.6 trillion dollars. Food prices increase by 0.81%, which would amount to \$13 billion dollar increase in food cost (ERS, 2014).

<Table 8>

The welfare effects in the United States are substantial, with a welfare increase of \$1.24 billion. This is somewhat counterintuitive at first glance, since the United States is a major user of GMO technology. A closer look at the welfare decomposition provides insight into the mechanism at work here. Though the United States loses due to the loss of GMO technology (\$1.86 billion), its gains from trade more than make up for that loss (\$3.59 billion). The U.S. is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world and a major agricultural commodity exporter. If GMO technology disappears everywhere, then the rest of the world becomes much more dependent on U.S. agricultural production.

ROW outcomes

China experiences by far the largest welfare loss in the first scenario. China has a welfare loss of \$3.63 billion dollars. There are two primary reasons for this welfare loss. The first is simply the loss associated with the loss of the GMO technology-this accounts for around \$1.1 billion dollars of welfare decrease. The other piece is the loss due to terms of trade. China loses \$2.4 billion dollars in trade, primarily in soybean and coarse grain imports. This is unsurprising, as China is the largest commodity importer in the world. The Middle East and North Africa's welfare loss is driven by an analogous dynamic-their reliance on imports for grain leaves them vulnerable to supply decreases and price increases. The European Union also experiences a similar effect. Even though the EU does not generally import varieties with GM traits, the fact that global production is higher than it would be without GM traits means that EU imports come at a lower cost. Thus, when the GM varieties disappear, the EU must pay higher import costs and suffer welfare losses of \$0.96 billion. Food prices in the EU are relatively unaffected, with only about a 0.34% increase in overall expenditure. Other regions with substantial welfare loss are India, with a welfare loss of \$2.23 billion and Japan with a welfare loss of \$1.03 billion. India's welfare loss is driven by

the loss of yield due to GMO technology. Unlike the United States, India's exports are not able to overcome the welfare loss. Table 9 summarizes the welfare losses and gains by region.

<Table 9>

As we see in Table 9, there are 'winners' and 'losers' from an overall welfare perspective. Apart from the United States, Brazil and South America are the biggest winners. Even though Brazil and South America both have relatively high GMO penetration, like the United States they have a welfare gain through the terms of trade effect as other countries must pay more for their commodity exports. However we note here what will be true for all of the simulations: the welfare impacts of banning GMO crops are quite small. If we compare the welfare impact of the GMO ban as compared to, say, the biofuels mandate (a welfare loss of \$43 billion according to Hertel et al (Hertel, et al., 2010)), we see that banning GMO crops does not damage global welfare very substantially. Indeed this should hardly surprise us-the values are directly in keeping with the literature on GMO benefits (Qaim, 2009). Nevertheless, we report the welfare results as well as their global distribution, as the variation in welfare by region is noticeable. It is important however to keep in mind the scale of these losses.

Food prices increase most in South Asia. India experiences the highest food price increases, with a 2.2% increase in prices. In the rest of South Asia (grouped together as a single region in the model), food prices increase by 1.3%. These numbers are notably higher than the global average of 0.78%. Other regions with high relative food price increases are East Asia (1.14%) and Brazil (0.97%). These food price increases are driven by higher consumption of raw commodities, rice in particular, and lower consumption of processed food.

Greenhouse gas emission impacts

One of the virtues of the GTAP-BIO model is that land use change impacts are modeled alongside economic outcomes. In the following sections we consider the global land use change impacts and associated emissions in scenario 1.

Land use change

As is to be expected, a considerable amount of land is converted to cropland from other uses. Table 10 provides the land use change numbers for each region.

<Table 10>

Falling yields on existing cropland means producers must expand their production area to meet demand. Global cropland increases by about 3.1 million hectares with 2.5 million hectares coming from pasture land and the balance (around 0.6 million hectares) coming from global forest loss. The greatest conversion of forest to cropland occurs in Sub-Saharan Africa, which also experiences the greatest increases in cropland. Other major areas of forest loss are India and the EU. Some regions actually experience increases in forested area. Brazil, South America, Central America and China all experience gains in forested area, though these gains are offset at the global level by losses in other regions.

One of the main problems with land use conversion to cropland is that when forest or pasture are converted to cropland, much of the carbon that has been sequestered over the years is released into the atmosphere. In addition, future sequestration is foregone. In the biofuels literature, this indirect or induced land use change and its associated emissions has been an important and controversial

topic. Thus land use conversion to cropland has associated emissions increases. With the growing focus on greenhouse gases emissions, this is an important issue worth addressing. Fortunately, the results of the GTAP-BIO simulation allow us to calculate emissions changes associated with the land use change.

Emissions

At the global level, the total emissions due to land use conversion are about 0.9 billion tons CO_2 equivalent. Table 11 shows the global emissions effects of land use change by type of land use change.

<Table 11>

In other words, if GMO technology were not available, there would be approximately 0.9 billion tons CO_2 equivalent more greenhouse gas emissions than there are currently. It is important to note that these emissions effects are only capturing one way in which the loss of forestland has negative environmental outcomes. There likely are other ecosystems losses that are not included here.

Simulation 2

The second scenario considers the impact of increasing GMO penetration globally. The approach to increasing GMO penetration means that the overall impacts will be smaller in the second scenario than they were in the first. We present these results in the same spirit as the results from the first simulation.

Economic outcomes

Global outcomes

World supply of agricultural commodities is not significantly affected by the increased yield from scenario 2. Soybean supply increases the most (0.84%), as it has the greatest increase in penetration of all GMO crops. As mentioned above, it is also a single category, so in percentage terms its changes will inevitably be more significant than aggregated commodity categories like coarse grains. In turn, other oilseed crop supplies fall. As these are substitutes for soybeans, increased production of soybeans leads to substitution. Similar effects are observable in global commodity prices. The price of all commodities falls, but by less than 0.5%, with the exception of soybeans. Soybeans experience a 1.3% decrease in price. Global food price is barely affected at all in the second scenario, experiencing a very slight decrease (0.11%). Global welfare increases by \$1.3 billion. As in scenario 1, the single global welfare number does not tell the whole story, as it fails to account appropriately for regional winners and losers.

US outcomes

Unlike in scenario 1, the US experiences slight impacts relative to the rest of the world. This is to be expected. The approach we took in modeling scenario 2 means that the United States experiences no yield improvements. Thus the production effects in the United States are negligible. Total supply of all commodities stays even or falls-most notably for soybeans, where supply falls by 1.3%. Imports from other soybean producers become more affordable, thus lowering domestic production. This might not seem especially significant, but 1% of total US soybean production is close to 33 million bushels. Still, relative to total production, the effects are

not important. Falling production and prices indicate that cheaper supply is now coming from other regions. In fact, a closer look at the terms of trade effects and the harvested area reveals that the increase in yields in the rest of the world changes to some extent the locations of agricultural production. United States producers move out of oilseed production and into wheat, rice and other coarse grains. As mentioned before, wheat and rice have little to no area planted to GMO varieties. Thus no country is gaining any advantage relative to the United States in those crops, explaining the increase.

The United States is a loser in net welfare in the second scenario. The United States experiences welfare losses of \$492 million. The vast majority of those losses come from trade. As production in the rest of the world increases, the United States loses out to other exporters.

ROW outcomes

As in the first scenario, China experiences the most significant welfare impacts. This time, however, China gains \$0.73 billion. The mechanism is analogous to the first scenario. China benefits from the rising supply (and falling price) of grains and oilseeds. In particular, the decreased price of soybeans is a particular boon to China.

Other beneficiaries are the Middle East and North Africa (\$0.47 billion) and the EU (\$0.37 billion). This is no surprise; just as for China, the mechanisms for loss and gain are roughly symmetrical in scenario 1 and scenario 2. Brazil and South America experience the largest losses in welfare (\$89.2 million and \$96.5 million, respectively). There is symmetry to the results of scenario 1 and scenario 2: welfare gains in scenario 1 are matched by welfare losses in scenario 2, and vice versa. Table 12 gives the overall welfare effects by region.

<Table 12>

Food price effects are negligible across the world-the most significant drop in food price occurs in the Brazil (0.38%).

Land use change based emissions

Land use change

As global yields improve, we anticipate less area planted to crops. This is what we observe in the simulation results. Global cropland decreases by about 0.8 million hectares. Forests cover 0.06 million more hectares, and pasture for livestock covers the other 0.74 million hectares currently devoted to crops. The European Union and Sub Saharan Africa experience the largest increases in forestland (0.02 million hectares and 0.53 million hectares, respectively). Though Brazil experiences the greatest decreases in cropland (0.46 million hectares), most of that land is converted to pasture, rather than forest.

Emissions

As in the previous scenario, the land use conversion has emissions impacts. Since the conversion is now from cropland to other uses, the emissions impacts are negative. A counterfactual world with higher GMO penetration is a world with less GHG emissions. Simply by increasing the penetration of GMO crops in countries currently using GMO to the United States' level of penetration, greenhouse gas emissions fall by 0.2 billion tons CO_2 equivalent. Table 13 summarizes the global sources of emissions decrease.

<Table 13>

Combining the simulations

Lastly, we consider the scenarios together. We recall that the previous results have all been understood relative to the actual world. Scenario 1 considers the world in the absence of GMO technology; Scenario 2 considers the world with increased GMO penetration. Having considered these scenarios separately, we now take them together. Here our goal is not to compare counterfactual worlds to the actual world, but rather to consider the future. One way of thinking about this is to consider this as an estimation of the cost of banning GMO crops. Instead of comparing the ban to the current world, which assumes that the penetration of GMO crops will remain static, we compare the outcomes in the case of a ban to the outcomes in the case of a likely future scenario. In this case, we understand scenario 2 as the plausible alternative outcome. Based on the rising penetration of GMOs worldwide, it is not unreasonable to assume that penetration will reach the levels it has attained in the United States. In fact, it would not be unreasonable to assume that GMO penetration far exceeds the penetration we model here. That being said, given the number of unknown variables, this seems a reasonable way to conservatively estimate of the future costs of a GMO ban (or the future benefits of GMOs).

In considering the scenarios relative to each other, we consider the welfare effects and land use/emissions effects. Clearly the commodity price impacts and food cost impacts would be higher, but it is not possible to directly combine those results.

Gap in economic outcomes

In order to compare the welfare costs of a future GMO ban, we take the welfare results from scenario 1 and subtract the welfare impacts from scenario 2. This gives the welfare impact of a GMO ban given the welfare impacts of the increased GMO penetration from scenario 2. Global welfare loss is \$9.8 billion. China is especially hard hit, with welfare losses accounting for more than 40% of global welfare loss. Table 14 gives the difference in welfare impact by region.

<Table 14>

Here the winners and losers of the GMO ban are made even clearer than in either scenario taken alone. Besides China, India and the Middle East and North Africa are the hardest hit, with Brazil and the United States reaping significant rewards. Given the regulatory approaches of the various regions represented here, the results are somewhat surprising. On the whole, as GMO penetration increases in GMO using countries, a GMO ban hurts low GMO penetration regions more and more. Export heavy regions are also the regions with the most significant penetration of GMO crops. Importers in turn rely on the marginal production of these GMO using producers. When the GMO varieties disappear, it is the importers who must meet their demand with higher prices that are adversely impacted the most.

Combining the land use change impacts

A similar procedure allows us to determine the land use effects of a future GMO ban. Table 15 summarizes the land use impacts of the future GMO ban. From Table 9 it is clear that much of the conversion of forest to crop is occurring in either the developing world or in places with at-risk forests to begin with. Sub Saharan Africa has the largest forest loss, losing about 0.3 million hectares of forest. India also loses significant forested area (also around 0.3 million hectares).

Interestingly, some regions convert pastureland both to crop and forest use in the case of a GMO ban (see Figure 2). This occurs in South America and in China.

<Table 15>

<Figure 2>

The global emissions outcomes combining scenario 2 and scenario 1 is approximately 1.1 billion tons of CO_2 equivalent. It is clear from these results that GMOs are a significant factor in the 'greening' of agriculture. After energy production, agriculture is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. This level of emissions is almost three times the land use change emissions from the entire US ethanol program. The emission reduction impacts of GMO varieties is rarely mentioned in the GMO debate.

4. DISCUSSION

The objective of this work is to quantify the economic and environmental impacts of two alternative GMO counterfactuals. The first is a GMO ban, while the second is an increase in total GMO penetration. The economic impacts include welfare, price, and supply impacts. The environmental impacts focus on land use change and associated emissions change.

As GMO find wider and wider usage, there is a corresponding growth in the popular hysteria surrounding the technology. Environmental activists push for GMO bans, without adequately considering the impacts such bans might have. The losses associated with a global ban would be twofold: the losses actually realized and the potential losses when compared to an alternative adoption schema. These losses are also not merely economic. To frame the debate as environmentalists on one side, and capitalists (and purveyors of capitalist apologetics) on the other, is to oversimplify a more complex issue. There are environmental gains associated with GMO technology, and while the welfare effects of GMO technology are not, as it turns out, especially substantial at the global level, the environmental effects are. Both sides of the GMO debate are done a disservice if these effects are ignored.

While the welfare impacts are not substantial at the global level, there are economic effects worth noting. In particular, the supply price and food price increases are extremely region specific. While the United States does not even experience a 1% food increase, countries like India and other South Asian nations do see their food prices increase more noticeably (2.2% and 1.3%). These are parts of the world where food and beverage expenditure is already a greater share of total household consumption, and so the effect of the food price increase is in fact amplified. It is a luxury to be relatively unaffected by a GMO ban, or at least to have your pocketbook hit less hard. Interestingly, the welfare and supply effects suggest that in the case of a GMO ban, the world becomes more dependent on US agriculture. This might not be a desirable outcome for nations other than the United States—indeed the United States is the region that benefits most from a GMO ban, either present or future.

The welfare impacts are in line with the impacts estimated in the rest of the literature (Qaim, 2009). Because they are the results of a global GMO ban of all three main crops, they are slightly greater than studies which have focused on one region, or one crop's benefits. However, the overall economic impacts of GMO crops have been discussed at great length, both at the micro and macro level. What has been more sparsely covered in the literature are the land use change impacts. Indeed Barrows et al (Barrows, et al., 2014) in their examination on land use change and GMO

point to the need for a full general equilibrium analysis to assess the impacts of land use change on price, supply but also on greenhouse gas emissions. Our findings suggest that avoided land use change (and thus avoided increases in emissions) is one of the most important benefits associated with GMO technology. As the latest talks in Paris conclude, and countries express a willingness to lower overall emissions, GMO technology is one of the ways that agriculture can help this aim. Banning GMO would increase emissions due to agriculture by 13.8%. Agriculture would have to find alternative approaches to lowering emissions, and these are not immediately obvious without fundamentally altering the agricultural landscape (e.g. banning meat).

This work is among the first to use the updated 2011 data from GTAP. Thus it is run using the most recent global economic information. Undertaking to model a global GMO ban requires that global data be used, and preferably the best global data available-this allows this work to provide a fuller picture of the world impacts. This work includes a large number of assumptions. Some of these are stated (as in the Methodology section) but others are unstated for reasons of brevity and scope (e.g. the assumptions that underlie the GTAP model).

REFERENCES

2007. *Economic impact of unapproved GMOs on EU feed imports and livestock production*. Brussels, Belgium.
- Ali, A., and A. Abdulai. 2010. "The adoption of genetically modified cotton and poverty reduction in Pakistan." *Journal of Agricultural Economics* 61:175-192.
- Bar-Yam, Y., J. Norman, and N.N. Taleb. "Precaution and GMOs: an Algorithmic Complexity Approach."
- Barrows, G., S. Sexton, and D. Zilberman. 2014. "The impact of agricultural biotechnology on supply and land-use." *Environment and Development Economics* 19:676-703.
- Bennett, R., S. Morse, and Y. Ismael. 2006. "The economic impact of genetically modified cotton on South African smallholders: yield, profit and health effects." *The Journal of Development Studies* 42:662-677.
- Brookes, G., and P. Barfoot. 2015. "Global income and production impacts of using GM crop technology 1996–2013." *GM Crops Food* 6:13-46.
- Brookes, G., and P. Barfoot. "GM crops: global socio-economic and environmental impacts 1996-2013." PG Economics Ltd.
- . 2012. "The income and production effects of biotech crops globally 1996-2010." *GM Crops Food* 3:265-272.
- Burachik, M. 2010. "Experience from use of GMOs in Argentinian agriculture, economy and environment." *New biotechnology* 27:588-592.
- Chiang, F.-S.F., W.S. Chern, and L.-J. Lu. 2005. "5. Public Communication: Consumer's Perspective of GMO/GM Foods." *Use and Regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms*.
- Costa-Font, J., and E. Mossialos. 2005. "Is dread of Genetically Modified food associated with the consumers' demand for information?" *Applied Economics Letters* 12:859-863.
- Costa-Font, M., and J.M. Gil. 2009. "Structural equation modelling of consumer acceptance of genetically modified (GM) food in the Mediterranean Europe: A cross country study." *Food Quality and Preference* 20:399-409.
- Dawkins, R. (1998) "Where do the real dangers of genetic engineering lie?" In *London Evening Standard*. London.
- ERS (2014) "Food and alcoholic beverages: total expenditure " In U.S. Department of Agriculture ed. Washington. D.C.
- Fernandez-Cornejo, J., S. Wechsler, M. Livingston, and L. Mitchell. 2014. "Genetically Engineered Crops in the United States." *Economic Research Report*:60.
- Fish, A., and L. Rudenko. "Guide to U.S. Regulation of Genetically Modified Food and Agricultural Biotechnology Products." Pew Trusts.
- Gandhi, V.P., and N. Namboodiri. 2006. "The adoption and economics of Bt cotton in India: Preliminary results from a study."

- Gouse, M., C. Pray, and D. Schimmelpfennig. 2005. "The distribution of benefits from Bt cotton adoption in South Africa."
- Hemphill, T.A., and S. Banerjee. 2015. "Genetically Modified Organisms and the US Retail Food Labeling Controversy: Consumer Perceptions, Regulation, and Public Policy." *Business and Society Review* 120:435-464.
- Hertel, T.W. 1997. *Global trade analysis: modeling and applications*: Cambridge university press.
- Hertel, T.W., A.A. Golub, A.D. Jones, M. O'Hare, R.J. Plevin, and D.M. Kammen. 2010. "Effects of US maize ethanol on global land use and greenhouse gas emissions: estimating market-mediated responses." *BioScience* 60:223-231.
- Hertel, T.W., W.E. Tyner, and D.K. Birur. 2010. "The global impacts of biofuel mandates." *Energy Journal* 31:75.
- Huang, J., R. Hu, S. Rozelle, F. Qiao, and C.E. Pray. 2002. "Transgenic varieties and productivity of smallholder cotton farmers in China." *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 46:367-387.
- Huesing, J., and L. English. 2004. "The impact of Bt crops on the developing world." ICAC. "Bollgard II: A New Generation of Bt Genes Commercialized." International Cotton Advisory Committee, March 2003.
- James, C. 2014. *Global status of commercialized biotech/GM crops: 2014*: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) Ithaca, NY, USA.
- Kruger, M., J.B.J. Van Rensburg, and J. Van den Berg. 2009. "Perspective on the development of stem borer resistance to Bt maize and refuge compliance at the Vaalharts irrigation scheme in South Africa." *Crop Protection* 28:684-689.
- Lee, H.-L., T. Hertel, B. Sohngen, and N. Ramankutty. 2005. "Towards an integrated land use data base for assessing the potential for greenhouse gas mitigation." *GTAP Technical Papers*:26.
- Lichtenberg, E., and D. Zilberman. 1986. "The econometrics of damage control: why specification matters." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 68:261-273.
- Liu, J., T.W. Hertel, F. Taheripour, T. Zhu, and C. Ringler. 2014. "International trade buffers the impact of future irrigation shortfalls." *Global Environmental Change* 29:22-31.
- Lusk, J.L., M. Jamal, L. Kurlander, M. Roucan, and L. Taulman. 2005. "A meta-analysis of genetically modified food valuation studies." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*:28-44.
- Marra, M.C., P.G. Pardey, and J.M. Alston. "The payoffs to agricultural biotechnology: an assessment of the evidence." International Food Policy Research Institute.
- Motavalli, P., R. Kremer, M. Fang, and N. Means. 2004. "Impact of genetically modified crops and their management on soil microbially mediated plant nutrient transformations." *Journal of environmental quality* 33:816-824.
- Mungai, N.W., P.P. Motavalli, K.A. Nelson, and R.J. Kremer. 2005. "Differences in Yields, Residue Composition and N Mineralization Dynamics of Bt and Non-Bt Maize." *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems* 73:101-109.
- Mutuc, M.E., R.M. Rejesus, and J.M. Yorobe Jr. 2011. "Yields, insecticide productivity, and Bt corn: Evidence from damage abatement models in the Philippines."
- Nolan, E., and P. Santos. 2012. "The Contribution of Genetic Modification to Changes in Corn Yield in the United States." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 94:1171-1188.
- Pemsl, D., H. Waibel, and J. Orphal. 2004. "A methodology to assess the profitability of Bt-cotton: Case study results from the state of Karnataka, India." *Crop Protection* 23:1249-1257.
- Piggott, N., and M. Marra. 2007. "The Net Gain to Cotton Farmers of a Natural Refuge Plan for Bollgard II® Cotton." *AgBioForum* 10:10.
- Qaim, M. 2009. "The Economics of Genetically Modified Crops." *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 1:665-694.

- Qaim, M., and A. De Janvry. 2005. "Bt cotton and pesticide use in Argentina: Economic and environmental effects." *Environment and Development Economics* 10:179-200.
- Qaim, M., and D. Zilberman. 2003. "Yield effects of genetically modified crops in developing countries." *Science* 299:900-902.
- Qiao, F. 2015. "Fifteen Years of Bt Cotton in China: The Economic Impact and its Dynamics." *World Development* 70:177-185.
- Sankula, S. (2006) "Crop Biotechnology in the United States: Experiences and Impacts." In N. Halford ed. *Plant Biotechnology: Current and Future Applications of Genetically Modified Crops*. Wiley, pp. 316.
- Shryock, J.J. 2013. "The economic and performance impact of technology adoption." University of Missouri--Columbia.
- Shuping, N., F. Wong, and T. Polansek (2014) "China approves imports of GMO Syngenta corn, Pioneer soy." In., Reuters.
- Singer, P.A., and A.S. Daar. 2000. "Avoiding frankendrugs." *Nat Biotechnol* 18:1225-1225.
- Smale, M., P. Zambrano, R. Paz-Ybarnegaray, and W. Fernández-Montaño. 2012. "A case of Resistance: herbicide-tolerant Soybeans in Bolivia."
- Subramanian, A., and M. Qaim. 2010. "The impact of Bt cotton on poor households in rural India." *The Journal of Development Studies* 46:295-311.
- Taheripour, F., D.K. Birur, T.W. Hertel, and W.E. Tyner. 2007. "Introducing liquid biofuels into the GTAP database." *GTAP Research Memorandum. Center for Global Trade Analysis, Purdue University*.
- Taheripour, F., T.W. Hertel, and W.E. Tyner. 2011. "Implications of biofuels mandates for the global livestock industry: a computable general equilibrium analysis." *Agricultural Economics* 42:325-342.
- Taheripour, F., and W.E. Tyner. 2013. "Biofuels and land use change: Applying recent evidence to model estimates." *Applied Sciences* 3:14-38.
- Traxler, G., and S. Godoy-Avila. 2004. "Transgenic cotton in Mexico."
- Trigo, E.J., and E. Cap. 2006. "Ten years of genetically modified crops in Argentine agriculture."
- Tripp, R. 2009. *Biotechnology and agricultural development: Transgenic cotton, rural institutions and resource-poor farmers*: Routledge.
- Venus, T., R. Casadamon, C. Soregaroli, and J. Wesseler. 2011. "Comparison of Bt and Non-Bt maize cultivation gross margin: a case study of maize producers from Italy, Spain and Germany." *FuturaAgra, Rome*.
- Verhalen, L., B. Greenhagen, and R.W. Thacker. 2003. "Lint yield, lint percentage, and fiber quality response in Bollgard, Roundup Ready, and Bollgard/Roundup Ready cotton." *Journal of Cotton Science*.
- Vitale, J., T. Boyer, R. Uaiene, and J.H. Sanders. 2007. "The economic impacts of introducing Bt technology in smallholder cotton production systems of West Africa: A case study from Mali."

FIGURES

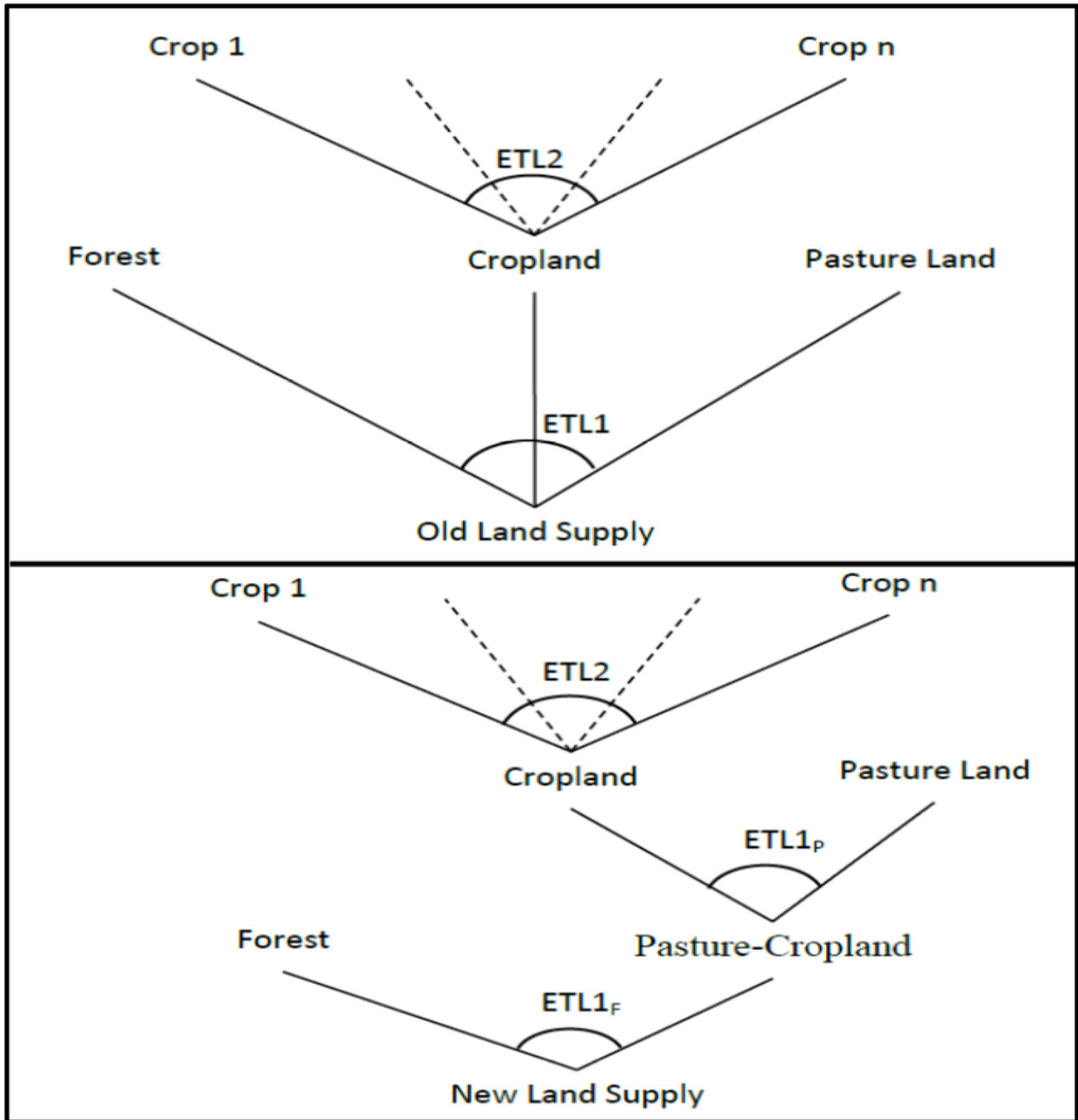


Figure 1. Land supply trees in new and old GTAP-BIO models.
 Source: Taheripour and Tyner 2013

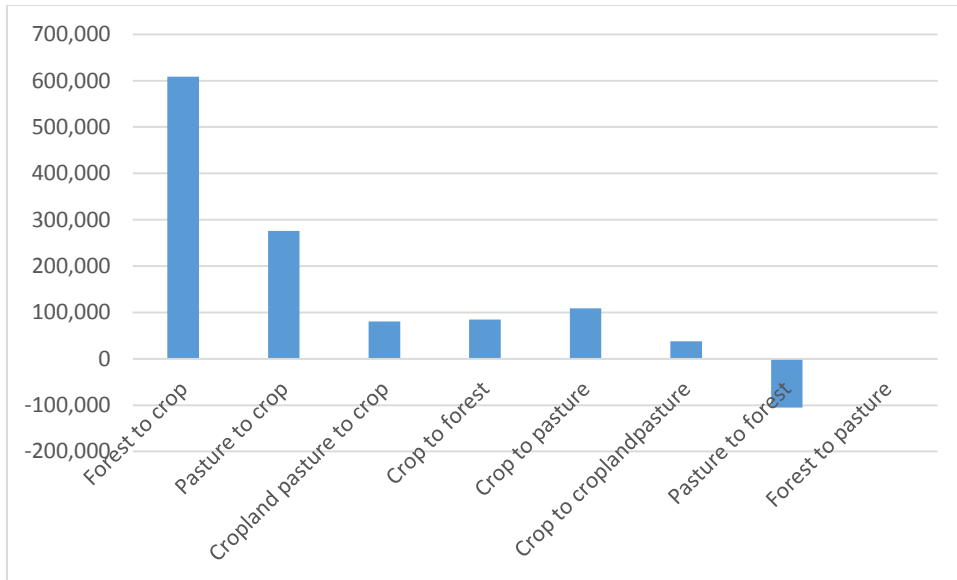


Figure 2. Combination of land use change emissions from scenario 1 and scenario 2, 10³ Mg CO₂ equivalent.

TABLES

Country	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
United States	-7.63%	0.00%
Canada	-8.14%	0.00%
Argentina	-8.86%	2.90%
Philippines	-6.16%	10.66%
South Africa	-7.15%	0.33%
Spain	-3.82%	5.39%
Uruguay	-4.56%	0.00%
Honduras	-1.26%	16.75%
Portugal	-0.99%	8.41%
Czech Republic	-0.23%	7.35%
Brazil	-10.20%	5.22%
Colombia	-2.25%	14.10%
Paraguay	-2.85%	1.21%

Table 1. Yield shocks for corn by country

Country	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
United States	-7.00%	0.00%
Argentina	-8.37%	0.00%
South Africa	-14.94%	0.42%
Brazil	1.57%	-1.35%
Colombia	-10.45%	0.00%
China	-8.81%	0.00%
Mexico	-15.92%	0.00%
India	-18.41%	0.00%
Burkina Faso	-10.02%	0.00%
Pakistan	-18.00%	2.27%
Burma	-18.82%	0.00%

Table 2. Yield shocks for cotton by country

Country	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
United States	-5.87%	0.00%
Canada	-5.94%	0.00%
Argentina	0.00%	6.23%
South Africa	0.00%	6.23%
Uruguay	0.00%	6.23%
Brazil	0.00%	6.23%
Paraguay	0.00%	6.23%
Mexico	0.00%	6.23%
Bolivia	-10.82%	0.00%

Table 3. Yield shocks for soybeans by country

GTAP region	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
BRAZIL	-9.93%	5.08%
CAN	-2.01%	0.00%
EU27	-0.05%	0.12%
R_SE_Asia	-2.62%	4.53%
S_o_Amer	-4.06%	2.04%
S_S_AFR	-0.29%	0.01%
UNMAPPED	0.00%	0.00%
USA	-7.28%	0.00%

Table 4. Other coarse grain yield shocks by region, scenario 1 and scenario 2

GTAP region	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
BRAZIL	0.00%	6.23%
C_C_Amer	0.00%	5.52%
CAN	-5.94%	0.00%
S_o_Amer	-0.47%	5.94%
S_S_AFR	0.00%	1.67%
USA	-5.87%	0.00%

Table 5. Soybean yield shocks by region, scenario 1 and scenario 2

GTAP region	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
BRAZIL	0.15%	-0.13%
C_C_Amer	-0.30%	0.00%
CHIHKG	-0.74%	0.00%
INDIA	-3.02%	0.00%
Oceania	0.00%	0.00%
R_S_Asia	-4.72%	0.00%
R_SE_Asia	-0.34%	0.00%
S_o_Amer	-0.36%	0.00%
S_S_AFR	0.00%	0.00%
UNMAPPED	0.00%	0.00%
USA	-0.73%	0.00%

Table 6. Other agriculture yield shocks by region, scenario 1 and scenario 2

Commodity type	Change in supply (%)	Change in supply price (%)
Rice	-0.12	1.58
Wheat	-0.07	1.90
Sorghum	1.13	2.05
Other coarse grains	-0.67	3.49
Soybeans	-1.40	4.05
Oil palm	0.40	1.47
Rapeseed	-0.14	1.96
Other Oilseeds	0.22	1.87
Sugar	-0.21	2.08
Other agricultural commodities	-0.25	2.87

Table 7. Impacts on global crop prices and supplies, Scenario 1.

Commodity type	Change in supply (%)	Change in supply price (%)
Rice	-2.42	3.57
Wheat	-3.35	3.13
Sorghum	5.45	4.85
Other coarse grains	-2.73	6.74
Soybeans	-5.47	6.48
Palm oil	9.83	0.10
Rapeseed	-3.24	3.36
Other Oilseeds	-2.43	3.4
Sugar	-0.192	5.1
Other agricultural commodities	-2.59	4.31

Table 8. Impacts on US crop prices and supplies, Scenario 1.

Region	Welfare change (million \$)
United States	1237
European Union	-959
Brazil	1155
Canada	372
Japan	-1037
China and Hong Kong	-3631
India	-2236
Central America and the Caribbean	-218
South America	896
East Asia	-910
Malaysia and Indonesia	-93
Rest of Southeast Asia	-104
Rest of South Asia	-830
Russia	-607
Other Central and Eastern Europe	89
Other Europe	-143
Middle East and North Africa	-2059
Sub Saharan Africa	-61
Oceania	641
TOTAL	-8500

Table 9. Welfare effects by region, Scenario 1.

Region	Forest	Cropland	Pasture
United States	4649	122354	-126073
European Union	-83717	153190	-69661
Brazil	90588	652197	-741548
Canada	-55284	77529	-22083
Japan	-7719	7834	-107
China and Hong Kong	45687	302704	-349058
India	-276440	502874	-226560
Central America and the Caribbean	2451	15438	-18441
South America	54767	130133	-184580
East Asia	-2741	8826	-6134
Malaysia and Indonesia	-14772	20163	-4975
Rest of Southeast Asia	-57061	67968	-11248
Rest of South Asia	-25438	113312	-88014
Russia	5349	29725	-35343
Other Central and Eastern Europe	-16644	55064	-39162
Other Europe	-887	1401	-383
Middle East and North Africa	260	47903	-47903
Sub Saharan Africa	-295671	764170	-468245
Oceania	-922	33986	-32674
TOTAL	-633545	3106771	-2472191

Table 10. Changes in land use in hectares by type, Scenario 1

Land use change	Total
Forest to crop	608,726
Pasture to crop	276,042
Cropland pasture to crop	80,588
Crop to forest	0
Crop to pasture	0
Crop to cropland/pasture	0
Pasture to forest	-105,821
Forest to pasture	0
TOTAL	859,535

Table 11. Emissions from land use change in Mg CO₂ equivalent, Scenario 1.

Region	Welfare change (million \$)
United States	-492
European Union	365
Brazil	-89
Canada	-64
Japan	124
China and Hong Kong	732
India	-34
Central America and the Caribbean	6
South America	-96
East Asia	138
Malaysia and Indonesia	-4
Rest of Southeast Asia	122
Rest of South Asia	16
Russia	117
Other Central and Eastern Europe	-4
Other Europe	26
Middle East and North Africa	466
Sub Saharan Africa	43
Oceania	-76
TOTAL	1295

Table 12. Welfare effects by region, Scenario 2.

	Emissions change (10 ³ Mg CO ₂ equivalent)
Land use conversion	
Crop to forest	-84576
Crop to pasture	-108745
Crop to cropland/pasture	-37994
Pasture to forest	-416
Total	-231731

Table 13. Emissions effects of global land use conversion, Scenario 2.

Region	Welfare change (million \$)
United States	1729
European Union	-1324
Brazil	1244
Canada	436
Japan	-1161
China and Hong Kong	-4363
India	-2201
Central America and the Caribbean	-224
South America	992
East Asia	-1048
Malaysia and Indonesia	-89
Rest of Southeast Asia	-226
Rest of South Asia	-846
Russia	-724
Other Central and Eastern Europe	94
Other Europe	-169
Middle East and North Africa	-2525
Sub Saharan Africa	-105
Oceania	717
TOTAL	-9795

Table 14. Welfare losses combining scenario 1 and scenario 2.

Region	Forest	Crop	Pasture
United States	2325	138889	-142119
European Union	-102321	186279	-84674
Brazil	128973	1108108	-1236493
Canada	-66341	92963	-26261
Japan	-8821	8938	-111
China and Hong Kong	50256	332975	-385071
India	-288365	525186	-237105
Central America and the Caribbean	2451	17725	-20955
South America	67654	182699	-251234
East Asia	-3255	9948	-6901
Malaysia and Indonesia	-17965	23897	-5733
Rest of Southeast Asia	-67351	80273	-12970
Rest of South Asia	-27027	120453	-93608
Russia	5349	35918	-40840
Other Central and Eastern Europe	-19866	66077	-47554
Other Europe	-1182	1697	-457
Middle East and North Africa	276	56515	-56965
Sub Saharan Africa	-348929	884351	-534092
Oceania	-1127	39034	-37701
TOTAL	-695268	3911921	-3220845

Table 15. Difference in land use effects by region.