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China's Industrialization and Agriculture: Domestic and International Consequences

Avraham Ebenstein
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Presentation delivered at the 2013 Annual Meeting
of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC)
Clearwater Beach, FL, December 15-17, 2013

Shared Harvests: Agriculture, Trade, and Employment

edited by
David Cheong, Marion Jansen, and Ralf Peters

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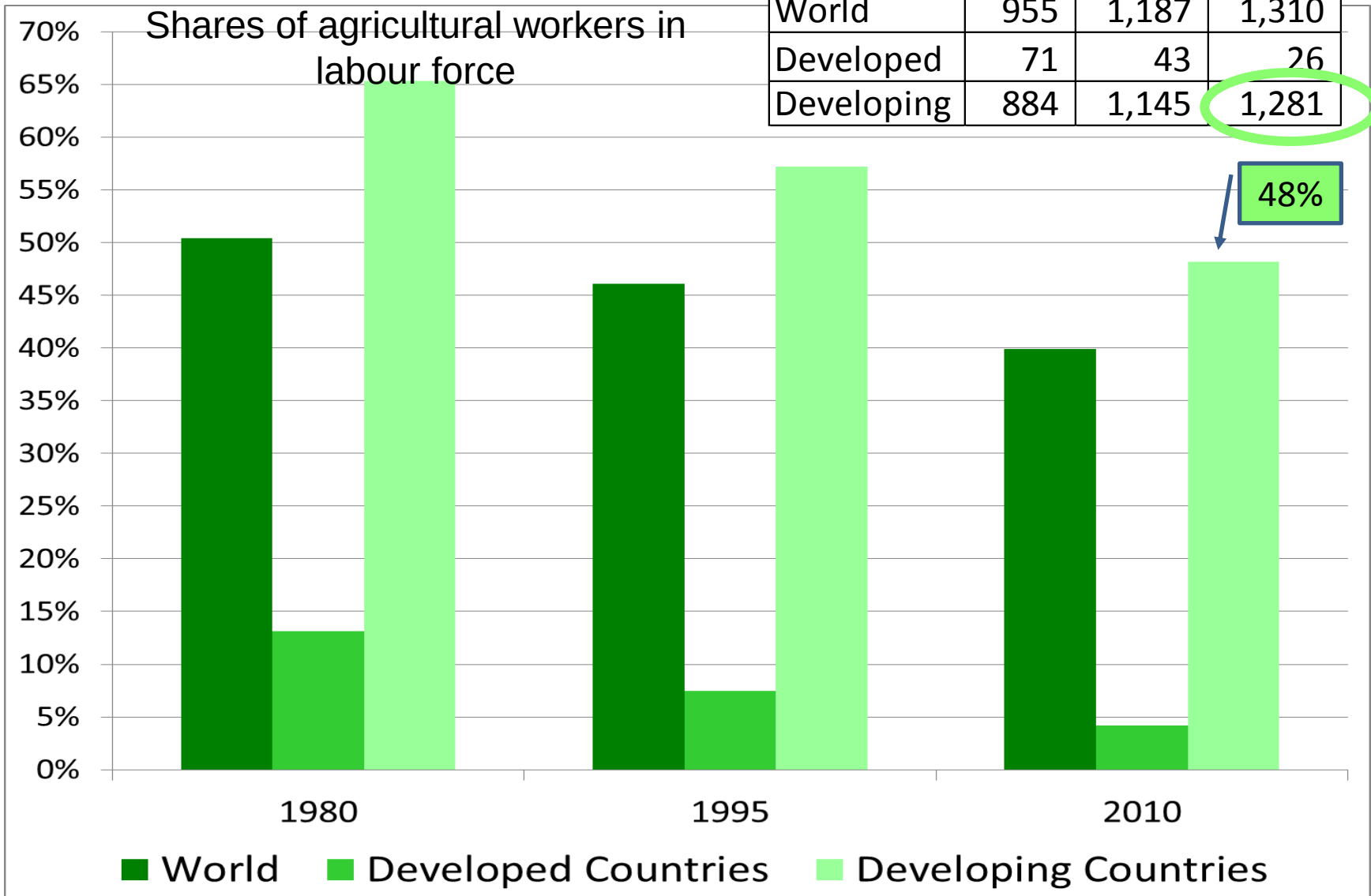
Many developing-country workers are in agriculture …

Agricultural Workers (millions)			
	1980	1995	2010
World	955	1,187	1,310
Developed	71	43	26
Developing	884	1,145	1,281



… working informally …

Shares of the agricultural workforce by employment status in developing countries, 2001 to 2008

	Employees	Employers	Own-account workers	Members of producers' cooperatives	Contributing family workers	Not classifiable
Global	30%	6%	38%	0.52%	24%	2%
South-East Asia	12%	22%	35%	0%	28%	4%
Europe and central Asia	26%	2%	53%	0.36%	19%	0%
Latin American and the Caribbean	40%	7%	34%	1%	17%	2%
Middle East and North Africa	25%	7%	30%	0.26%	38%	0%
South Asia	4%	1%	50%	0.60%	45%	1%
Sub-Saharan Africa	44%	3%	23%	0%	24%	7%

Source: Authors' computations using statistics ILO's LABORSTA (2012). The sample included 42 countries that reported employment status by the International Classification by Status in Employment (ICSE) in the period 2001 to 2008.

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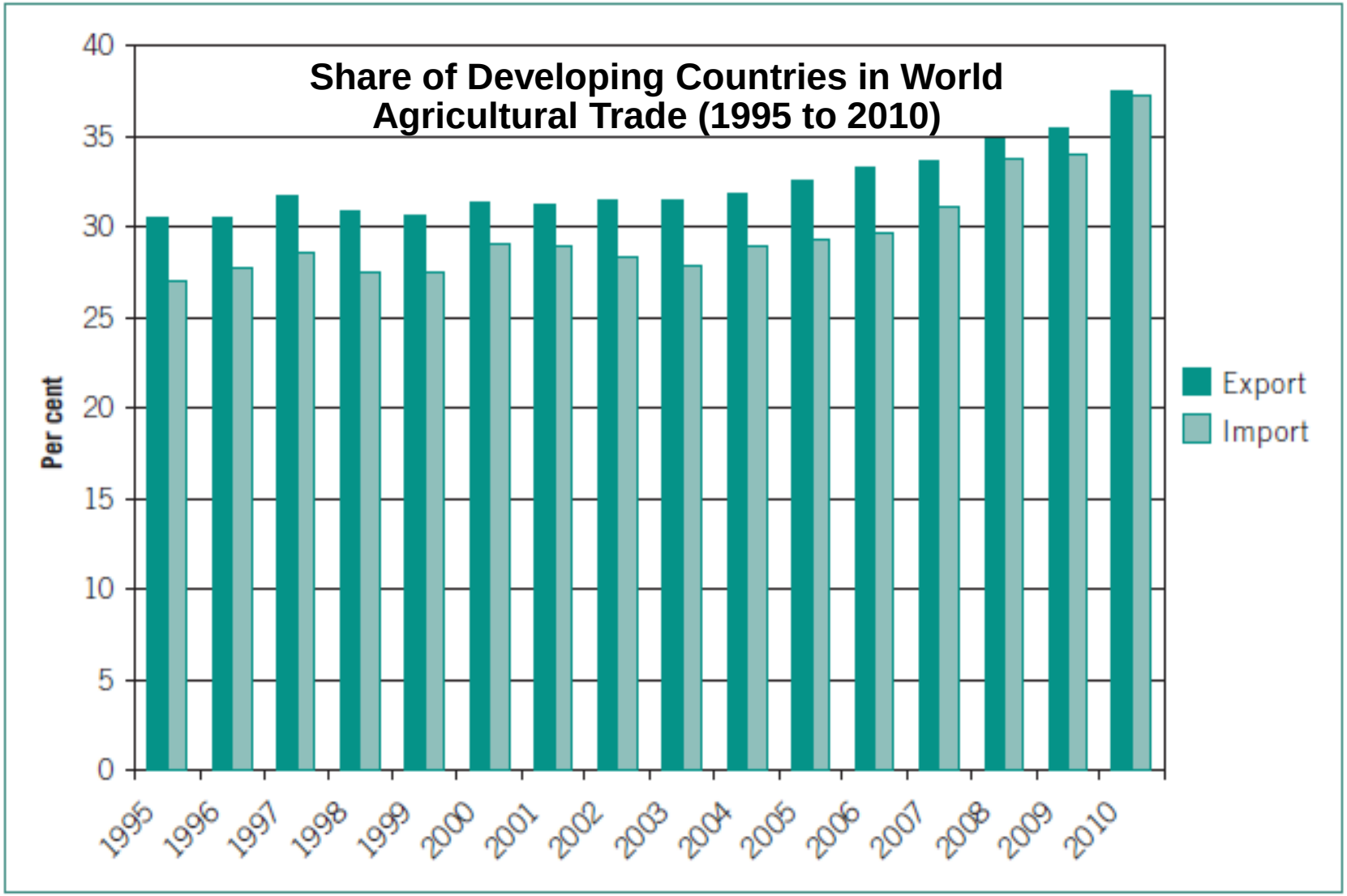
… for relatively low earnings…

Average earnings or wages of agricultural and manufacturing workers in selected developing countries in US dollars

Country	Type of Data	Agriculture (A)	Manufacturing (M)	Relative (A/M)
Nicaragua	Earnings per month	53.36	220.56	0.24
Kyrgyzstan	Earnings per month	23.32	92.32	0.25
Tanzania, United Rep. Of	Wage rates per month	62.45	155.92	0.40
El Salvador			214.01	0.44
Tajikistan			21.76	0.45
Moldova			124.99	0.47
Madagascar			1.01	0.48
Philippines			4.96	0.48
Georgia			128.97	0.49
Ukraine			351.04	0.50
Sri Lanka			3.23	0.53
Indonesia	Wage rates per month	50.61	90.54	0.56
Guatemala	Earnings per month	157.29	276.26	0.57
Mongolia	Earnings per month	60.11	103.62	0.58
Paraguay	Earnings per month	110.92	161.44	0.69
Syrian Arab Republic	Earnings per month	574.23	759.47	0.76
Armenia	Earnings per month	93.41	120.43	0.78
Egypt	Earnings per week	25.72	32.51	0.79
Swaziland	Earnings per month	464.28	456.35	1.02
Fiji	Wage rates per day	10.75	10.19	1.06

Agricultural earnings or wages are, on average, ***60 %*** of that in manufacturing.

… while the share of developing countries in world trade is increasing.



Source: UNCTADstat.

Some Themes of "Shared Harvests"

- **Agricultural productivity growth** and *structural change*
- **International channels** of agricultural productivity improvement
- **Agricultural trade reforms** and *employment*
- **Managing adjustments** in *agricultural labour markets*

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Take-aways from "Shared Harvests"

- **Agriculture** should be established (or re-established) as a **high policy priority** in the *domains of trade and employment.*
- **Gradual or phased-in agricultural trade liberalization** can facilitate adjustment processes to help avoid *bottlenecks in the labour market.*

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“Shared Harvests”: Contents

An Overview

1: Employment, Productivity, and Trade in Developing-Country Agriculture

2: Legal Aspects of Trade in Agriculture: WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Preferential Trade Agreements

3: Trade and Agricultural Employment Linkages in General Equilibrium Modelling

4: Economic Reforms and Agriculture in Bangladesh: Assessment of Impacts Using Economy-
wide Simulation Models

5: Impact of Agricultural Trade on Employment in Benin

6: Foreign Trade and Agricultural Employment Guatemala

7: Trade, Productivity, and Employment Linkages in Indonesian Agriculture

8: Towards a Continental Free Trade Area in Africa: a CGE Modelling Assessment with a Focus on Agriculture

9: Potential Impacts of WTO and EU Accession on the Agricultural Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina

10: A Coherent Agriculture Trade Policy for Mexico

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Thanks for your kind attention!