Agricultural Trade, Protectionism, and Sustainable Development

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Agricultural trade policies have consequences for sustainability

Trade policies and subsidies



Prices and quantities of agricultural goods



Land use (environmental consequences)

Food security outcomes





- Goal 2 target: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- Goal 2 target: Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

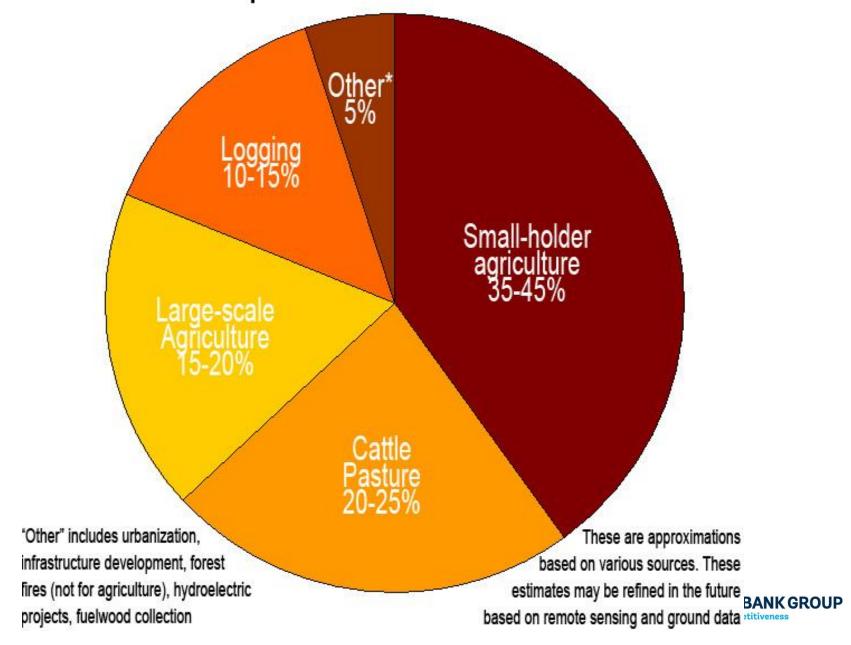




 Goal 15 target: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

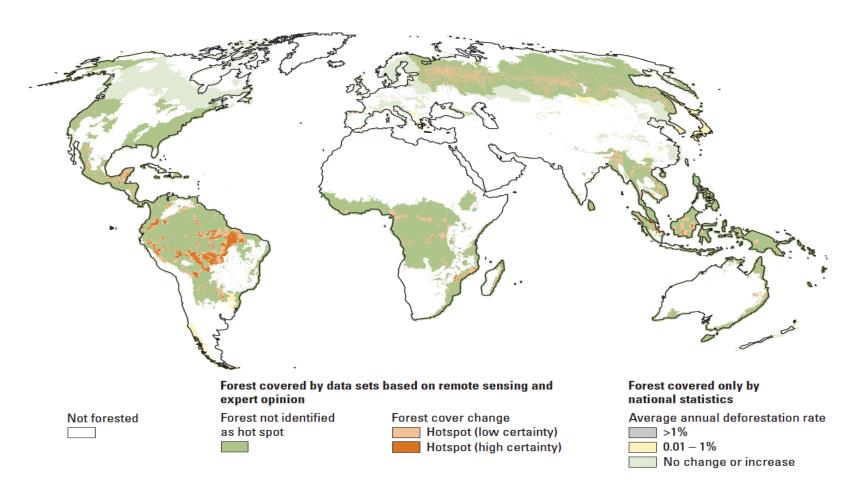


Causes of tropical deforestation 2000-2005



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Deforestation continues to progress – particularly in tropical areas – and has implications for biodiversity and climate change.





Producer support policies tend to raise domestic production and prices, food security (consumer support) policies tend to lower domestic production and prices (but have a beggar-thy-neighbor effect)

TABLE 1.1 Short-term impact of various trade policy instruments on prices, surpluses, and public revenues

Policy instrument	Impact on local price	Impact on local consumption	Impact on local production	Impact on public revenues	Impact on world price
Import duty	+	_	+	+	-
Import quota	+	-	+	?	_
Import subsidy	-	+	-	-	+
Export subsidy	+	-	+	-	-
Export tax	-	+	_	+	+
Export restriction	-	+	_	?	+

Source: Authors.

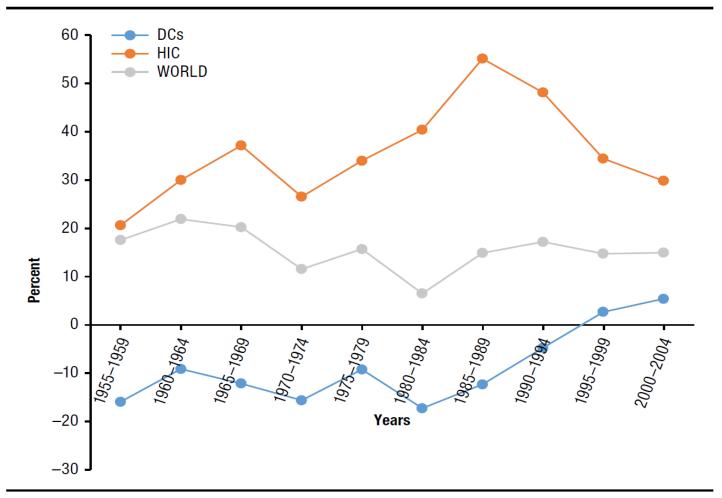
Note: ?= undetermined.

Source: Antone Bouët and David Laborde, *Agriculture*, Development, and the Global Trading System 2000-2015 (2017)



Changes in border measures have taken pressure off forests in rich countries, but added pressure on forests in poor countries (Bouet and Laborde, 2017)

FIGURE 2.1 Nominal rate of assistance from border measures in developed and developing countries (%)



Source: Anderson (2009).

Agricultural subsidies have declined in high-income countries (HICs) and grown in low-income countries (LICs) (Bouet and Laborde, 2017)

