



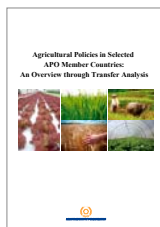
New APO publication on agriculture welcomed

Agricultural Policies in Selected APO Member Countries: An Overview through Transfer Analysis

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Agricultural Policies in Selected APO Member Countries: An Overview through Transfer Analysis was published in June and is attracting favorable attention. Director Ken Ash of the OECD Agriculture Department wrote the following.



The APO initiative to extend the OECD's producer/consumer support estimates methodology to a number of Asian countries is most welcome. For more than 25 years, the OECD has been monitoring and evaluating agriculture policies in OECD countries and, more recently, in Brazil, PR China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, South Africa, and Ukraine. Extending measurement and understanding of agriculture policy efforts to a wider set of countries in Asia, South America, and Africa is particularly important for at least two reasons: 1) an increasing share of global production and consumption takes place there, outside current OECD member

countries; and 2) government involvement in agriculture remains prevalent, with a seemingly ever-changing mix of policies designed alternatively to protect, to support, and in some cases to tax producers (and consumers). Clearly, understanding existing policy aims, instruments, and likely impacts is prerequisite to government consideration of alternative policy measures that can perform better both domestically and internationally. This is why the OECD continues to review policy developments on an annual basis, and it is also why this APO contribution is so potentially valuable to policymakers in Asia. What remains, of course, is for policymaking to be informed by the new insights now available.

Agricultural Policies in Selected APO Member Countries: An Overview through Transfer Analysis is informed by the OECD methodology and experience, but it has been prepared solely under the responsibility of the APO and its national experts. It provides a consistent, systematic base of policy information on the Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Thailand. But the report goes further and explicitly discusses the relationship between policy incentives (and disincentives) and productivity performance. While neither the OECD nor the APO have all the answers, collaboration is continuing. Our shared aim is not only to provide comparable policy information for more countries, and over time, but also to extend our analysis to highlight actions governments can take (or avoid) in order to improve agriculture productivity growth on a sustainable basis globally. 