Assessing Multi-factor Productivity of the Agro-Industries in Trinidad and Tobago:
A Research Agenda

Kit Fai Pun, Clement K. Sankat and Cavelle B. Motilal

Abstract

Nowadays, processed and semi-processed food and agricultural products account for about two-thirds of total agricultural trade globally. Hence, the deployment of resources in agriculture has become increasingly responsive to market forces and increasingly integrated in the network of industrial interdependencies. This paper discusses the forward and backward linkages, and identifies leverage points in the agro-industry sector with reference to Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). A research agenda has been initiated to investigate into these linkages in the context of agro-production functions, and use the Törnqvist index to determine the agro-contributions towards the nation’s gross domestic product. This exploratory work would contribute to develop a conceptual multi-factor productivity model that facilitates the analysis of the forward and backward linkages of the agro-industry sector in T&T.

Keywords: Agro-industry, linkages, productivity, model, Trinidad and Tobago