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## Summary of GPS Publications 2013/2018

### *Contents by area:*

1. Geopolitics of Food
2. Sustainable Development for Global Food Security
3. Regional Agroindustrial Integration
4. International Relations, Trade and Investment

Edited by Pablo Elverdin

# Summary of GPS Publications

Library updated to April 2018

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## 1. Geopolitics of Food

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### Agricultural Trade Interests and Challenges at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires. A Southern Cone Perspective.

*Piñeiro, M. and Piñeiro, V.; eds. December 2017*

The last five years have been characterized by increased scrutiny of the impacts and benefits of globalization and by radical changes in several national policies adopted by important world players who question the importance of global and multilateral trade agreements.

Parallel to this, the last years have also witnessed increased concern for environmental issues that are beginning to play a more important role in defining the future of trade and agriculture.

While this was taking place, Latin American countries, and particularly those that make up the Southern Cone, continued to expand their reach and influence in international food markets, thus consolidating the region as one of the most important food providers to the world and a key player in global food security. These countries have a particular interest in ensuring that agricultural trade is supported by transparent mechanisms, and that the WTO continues to make progress toward the achievement of a more equitable and sustainable trade system.

This book was presented within the framework of the WTO Ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires, as an effort to share opinions and ideas in order to advance the complex issues that impact agricultural trade, and to provide information on their importance for the economic and social progress of the countries of the Southern Cone of the Americas.

The document is the result of a joint effort by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Group of Producing Countries from the Southern Cone (GPS), Institute for International Agricultural Negotiations Foundation (INAI), Buenos Aires Grain Exchange, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and given the limited progress of the XI<sup>o</sup> Ministerial, its analyzes and proposals continue in force today.

See full document on <https://grupogpps.org/web/agricultural-trade-interests-and-challenges-at-the-wto-ministerial-conference-in-buenos-aires-a-southern-cone-perspective/>

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## Conference for the Cairns Group Farm Leaders

*Guillermo Valles Galmés –December 2017*

In the days leading up to the XI° Ministerial Conference of Buenos Aires, the Rural Association of Argentina held a conference with the Cairns Farm Leaders Group.

The presentation focused on the role of the World Trade Organization in a changing international environment, also mentioning the role of the Cairns Group and the agricultural producers of that group.

The starting point of the conference was to express the importance of the explicit agenda of the XI° Ministerial Conference for the agricultural sector, but also highlight the implicit agenda, which may have a greater significance. What was put into play in the latter is not of minor relevance.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://grupogpps.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Presentaci%C3%B3n-Emb-Valles.pdf>



## The G-20 Ministerial Meeting in Buenos Aires: The inter-relations between food security, international trade and climate change as an agenda item

*Piñeiro, M. – June 2017*

During 2018, Argentina will host the XIII° Ministerial Conference of the G-20. Argentina has the opportunity and the challenge to influence the specific contents of the agenda of the meeting that represent specific interests for the countries of the region and the world in general.

The Argentine Government advanced that it would be proposing as a main theme for the agenda the consideration of the impact of technologies and globalization on structural unemployment and its implications for education.

The selected theme is of central importance at present. Even more if it is defined in a broad sense that includes the challenges that the technologies linked to robotics, digitalization and information technology pose in relation to profound structural changes in the relationship between capital and work. However, at a meeting of the G-20 that will be held in Argentina can't be absent the issues related to: a) world trade and b) agriculture / global food security.

The purpose of the article was to initiate a dialogue with the academic organizations that participate in the T20, focused on analyzing very succinctly the need and convenience of including as an agenda item the detailed treatment of agricultural trade and its interrelations with world food security and the climate change, proposing some possible lines of coordinated action by the member countries of the G-20.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://grupogpps.org/web/la-reunion-ministerial-del-g20-en-buenos-aires-por-martin-pineiro/>

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## The XI ° WTO Ministerial Meeting in Buenos Aires: The possible topics of Agenda from an agroindustrial perspective of the Southern Cone

*Piñeiro, M. – May 2017*

The XI° MC is an important meeting for the future of the WTO and multilateral trade. It is also an opportunity for Argentina, as a host country, to contribute to the strengthening of multilateralism by organizing a successful meeting. However, it is important to keep in mind that the possibilities of achieving important advances in consolidating a more open and transparent multilateral trade are not very auspicious. The Doha Round initiated in 2001 with ambitious goals and intentions did not progress as expected.

On the other hand, the next meeting in Buenos Aires will take place in a complex and uncertain international context in which both economic growth and world trade have stagnated, regional agreements have weakened and protectionist tendencies have re-emerged in almost all regions of the world.

From an agroindustrial perspective, of special importance and concern for Argentina as a food exporting country, there are four objectives that emerge as the main ones: a) to achieve some specific advances in issues that are currently under negotiation in the Agreement on Agriculture, b) strengthen the role of the WTO as a forum for negotiation and construction of agreements on multilateral compliance rules, c) protect its function as an arbitral tribunal in commercial disputes between countries; and d) achieve the installation of a substantive issue related to agricultural trade that may be recognized as a milestone to remember the meeting in Buenos Aires.

The article tries to analyze, from the perspective of the agroindustrial interests of the countries of the Southern Cone, the current situation of the negotiations, the issues that remained pending in Nairobi and identify issues that could be part of the work agenda for the Buenos Aires meeting. The spirit and objective of the note was to contribute to the installation of a dialogue and consensus building within the private sector to then progress in a public/private dialogue aimed at defining the interests of the country and the region in the long term.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://grupogpps.org/web/reunion-ministerial-de-la-omc-en-buenos-aires-posibles-temas-de-la-agenda-desde-la-perspectiva-agroindustrial-del-cono-sur-por-martin-pineiro/>

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## Food Security, Water Scarcity, the G-20 Agenda and the strategic role of Southern Cone Countries

*Viglizzo, E.; Ricard, F; Regúnaga, M and Elverdin, P. –January 2017*

In the next years, the importance of exports in order to satisfy the growing food demand will increase. The future food security will depend on trade and on the ability of net food exporters to locate their surpluses in the international markets without unjustified obstacles. Here is where the countries of the region play an important role, since they account for almost 30 percent of the total net food exports worldwide, and that contribution is expected to increase in the near future.

These concerns have also raised social and political awareness with respect to the growing economic scarcity of natural resources, the potential impacts of climate change and the difficult political economic issues that the world will face in the coming years by these reasons. These concerns have also led the International Community to propose specific mechanisms to improve global governance on environmental issues, and recently some compromises of singular magnitude have been achieved (as the commitment made in the COP21 shows).

In response to these concerns and proposals, GPS has organized a joint effort to analyze the potential contributions that the four countries can make to the global food supply and to environment sustainability. In this way, GPS presented at the Green Week 2017, in Berlin, some ideas and proposals on the main issues that are being considered on the international agenda in the areas of food security, agricultural natural resources and climate change.

The document is organized into two sections and deals with three main subjects: a) it describes the food production capacity of the region, its extraordinary potential and the significant progress made in technological and organizational matters; b) the contribution of the region to global food security implementing environmentally friendly production systems; and c) the regional export of virtual green water, and how it contributes to water security of the destination countries of its exports.

See full document on <http://grupogpps.org/en/noticias/seguridad-alimentaria-deficit-hidrico-la-agenda-del-g-20-y-el-rol-estrategico-de-los-paises-del-cono-sur-argentina-brasil-paraguay-y-uruguay/>

## Southern Cone Agriculture: A Global Contribution

*Valeria Piñeiro and Pablo Elverdin- October 2016*

The region needs relaunch its agenda of international economic relations. A joint negotiation with third countries is an important instrument for improving international competitiveness. The decision to exclude itself from bilateral trade negotiations could not have negative consequences if the Doha Round had shown significant progress. However, the unproductivity of the multilateral

negotiations, calls into question the absence of a clear and aggressive policy of commercial insertion of the region.

Undoubtedly, increasing the region's external relationship will make it possible to establish it as a relevant player in ensuring global food security, since for most agricultural exports are concentrated in a few supplying countries that supply deficiencies in the remaining regions of the world. However, this will not only depend on the countries of the Southern Cone, but also should work on a review of trade rules at the global level.

As consumption and production patterns continue to evolve at the current pace, world trade in agro-industrial products is likely to continue to increase in the coming decades. By 2025, about a quarter of the world's population will need to obtain at least 25% of its cereal for food from imports. By 2024 the global consumption of calories from vegetable and animal products will be and 15% higher than in 2015.

On this basis, global markets are increasingly important as a food source. Any unjustified restriction may affect the ability to obtain food from a substantial part of the population.

Now, there is a growing awareness of the fact that food security is a very serious humanitarian problem that not only requires technical solutions. On the contrary, it is a highly political issue that the international community has not yet been able to provide a coherent and coordinated response. This highlights the existing constraints in global governance mechanisms, making it necessary to prioritize food security on the international agenda.

The full document on [https://grupogpps.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Final-Agricultura-Cono-Sur-v0-Doc-para-Foro-do-Futuro\\_Eng-22-3-2018.pdf](https://grupogpps.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Final-Agricultura-Cono-Sur-v0-Doc-para-Foro-do-Futuro_Eng-22-3-2018.pdf)



## Securing Global Food Supply: What Role for Latin America's Net Agricultural Exporters

*M. Piñeiro, M. Myers and L. Uzquiza – September 2015*

Global food demand has expanded rapidly over the past decade, the result in large part of economic growth in a number of developing countries tied to successful public policies, middle class expansion, and corresponding increases in food consumption. This rise in global food demand has been accompanied by a significant increase in non-food-related agricultural production.

Escalating food demand was not accompanied by equivalent growth in agricultural production, inevitably leading, along with other drivers, to increases in the international prices of major

agricultural commodities, like the food prices peaked in 2008 during the so-called global food crisis. The combined impact of high food prices and food price volatility presented critical policy challenges for net food importers in the developing world, while highlighting the role of net food exporters in assuring global food security.

Although international food prices have substantially decreased over the past two years, they remain higher than before the 2008 crisis and are expected to continue at relatively elevated levels in the coming years. Many net food-importing countries have adopted defensive measures and policies to adjust to this “new normal.” These actions tend to affect only domestic markets, but some have clearer negative externalities in International markets. They have minimal impact on international trade or global food supply.

In addition to domestic measures, some large net food importers—such as China and Saudi Arabia—are turning to foreign agriculture to augment their domestic food supply. Although domestic, these initiatives carry broad economic and political implications.

This report, examines policy responses by net importers and exporters of food in light of sustained high food prices and food price volatility. It analyzes the policies and programs being implemented to better position some countries in a world marked by increasing food supply scarcity and related security risks.

Noting that global governance arrangements have, thus far, done little to mitigate supply and price risk, Pérez del Castillo offers in the third chapter a proposal for addressing global food insecurity. He calls for alignment, through a rule-based framework negotiated in the World Trade Organization (WTO), of the long-term objectives of net food-exporting countries and net food importers. This framework, he argues, would reduce Reliance on distortionary trade policy and, thereby, improve overall conditions for global food security. Meléndez-Ortiz also addresses the need for trade-related reform in support of global food security. He points out that agricultural price spikes have exposed gaps in WTO rules on agricultural trade.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/securingglobalfoodgps-iadbooklet/>



## Food Security and International Agricultural Trade

*Carlos Pérez del Castillo – March 2015*

The intention of this paper is to provide some reflections regarding the possibilities of dealing with global food security concerns in the framework of the WTO. This could be done as part of the ongoing multilateral agricultural negotiations of the Doha Round, or eventually, in a post-Doha Program of Work on Agriculture.

Before those reflections, it makes a revision of the enhanced relevance of food security in the international agenda, the new global context (increasing world demand, price volatility, climate change, etc.) and international agricultural trade actual situation. It determines that the international community will have to rely more and more on international food trade to deal with food security concerns. So, it asks where to pursue those global efforts and which is the existing institutional framework that provides the best possibilities to successfully achieve this needed level of international cooperation regarding food security.

Then, it gives some preliminary thought to the elements of a negotiating proposal between net food exporting and net food importing countries that could be considered by both parties. In this context, it admits that there is very little time and in particular very little space, for the introduction of the broader concept of global food security in the current Doha Round agricultural negotiations. So it concludes that the introduction of this proposal should perhaps be better aimed at the post-Doha WTO Programme of Work regarding agriculture because to address the global food security issue in a sectorial Agriculture negotiation may be easier and have certain advantages over its consideration in the framework of a Multilateral Trade Round dealing with many other issues.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/en/publicaciones/food-security-and-international-agricultural-trade/>



## Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (ABPU) and their share in world agriculture

*Pablo Elverdin – August 2014*

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief description of agriculture in the countries of ABPU, their relevance to products and exports, as well as at the level of employment and investment.

This paper seeks to show the significance of the countries of ABPU in world agricultural GDP. For such purpose, it compares the changes in GDP and in agricultural GDP in the four countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world; such comparison shows that these South American countries have become more important in terms of their contribution to both agricultural and total world production, and have significantly increased their contribution to the global economy in the last 20 years.

While the share in world GDP has grown to mean, jointly, 4% of global production, the contribution of ABPU countries would be even greater if we take into account the contribution of agribusiness considering that the weight of GDP generated by the expanded agriculture in countries like Argentina and Uruguay multiplied several times the GDP of agriculture.

An analysis of agro-industrial trade shows that world agrifood trade evolved more than total trade. As in the case of GDP, the contribution of the countries of ABPU to the world flow of exports has increased in the last decade and now accounts for 9% of world trade in these goods.

As regards agricultural employment, there has been a marked drop in its share in total employment, both at regional and global levels. Similarly, total agricultural farms also fell -except in Uruguay-.

Then, it discusses investments in agriculture, including both private (equipment, facilities and per worker) and public investments (in R&D), as well as changes in foreign direct investment (FDI) and the destination of such investments in the region. The last section discusses the use of agrochemicals and fertilizers.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Argentina-Brazil-Paraguay-and-Uruguay-ABPU-and-their-share-in-world-agriculture-Elverdin-1.pdf>



## Global Food Security and Agricultural Natural Resources

*Role and views of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay*

*September 2013*

The document addresses the issue of global food security, the need to produce increasingly more food, at reasonable prices, using natural resources in an efficient and sustainable way. In this context the role and views of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (ABPU) are, examined given their importance in world food production.

After the introduction, Chapter II analyzes the future challenges of global food security in a new context, present since the beginning of this century, where food demand is growing faster than supply, with a consequent fall in stocks and a rising of prices.

In Chapter III ABPU's international role is addressed in relation to achieving food security with environmental sustainability. First, the recent developments in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are analyzed to then describe their strategic role, given their endowment of natural resources, human capital available, adequate institutional framework and rapid transfer of technology, particularly in ABPU. Also, there are production projections for ABPU to 2021 and its potential impact on world trade. Then, ABPU's countries production systems and business models are described, both renowned for their efficiency and environmental friendliness. Finally, political economy issues are addressed, particularly the regulation and control over land suitable for cultivation in each country.

Then, in Chapter IV a view from ABPU on some key issues on the international agenda is described. Some of the topics are: worldwide agricultural R&D; technical assistance to developing countries, including North-South and South-South cooperation; infrastructure investment and innovation along the value chain; institutional strengthening; rational expansion to new agricultural areas; international trade barriers; price formation mechanisms; development of a new generation of fertilizers; and bio-fuels production.

Finally, Chapter V analyzes the treatment being given to food security and natural resources on the international agenda, addressed from eight areas of analysis: food security; food prices volatility; the formation of a specialized forum on agricultural natural resources; foreign investment in agricultural land; innovation and international technology transfer to less developed countries; private standards in international trade; elimination of subsidies; biofuels production and consumption.

The full document is available at [http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GPS\\_BOOK\\_ON\\_FOOD\\_SECURITY.pdf](http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GPS_BOOK_ON_FOOD_SECURITY.pdf)

## 2. Sustainable Development for Global Food Security

### Carbon sequestration in rural lands: A missing link in inventories?\*

*Ernesto Viglizzo y Florencia Ricard- November 2017*

Climate scientists generally agree that the methods recommended by the IPCC predicting with acceptable rigor the internal emissions of the countries. But in the estimates of carbon sequestration, there are uncertainties and methodological doubts that are the subject of discussion and debate. A change in the method can drastically modify the results of a carbon balance.

The objective of this study is to recalculate carbon balances through an alternative methodology aimed at assessing the capture and sequestration of carbon in rural and natural lands of the MERCOSUR region.

The analysis was exclusively focused on the changes that occur in the root biomass of the biomes studied, since the reserves of carbon in roots are a more stable component than the carbon of the aerial biomass. The carbon in organic matter of soil is not totally appropriate for estimating annual flows of sequestered carbon because its changes are measured and detected in longer terms.

The carbon balances in this research are presented in three components that correspond (i) to livestock, (ii) to grain agriculture and (iii) to changes in land use.

Computing catches, all the balances of pastoral livestock systems in the region were positive, although the results show large absolute differences between the four countries. At the same time, the general balances of the rural sector in the four countries show a positive balance to that currently used with the IPCC methodology.

These evidences from the scientific literature show that the debate about carbon sequestration is far from being closed, and that the results of this study add a different methodological perspective to evaluate the same problem. Although the work contributes to the debate, their answers are not yet categorical since more estimates are needed to validate the method and the carbon balance of the rural sector that have been calculated.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://grupogpps.org/web/secuestro-de-carbono-en-tierras-rurales-un-eslabon-perdido-en-los-inventarios/>

\*Version under review

## The two faces of Janus: Food security in times of environmental tension

*Ernesto Viglizzo - September 2017*

The current social reflex seems to indicate that the production of food and the preservation of the environment unfold and face along a line of fissure. A line of conceptual rupture divides opinions between those who defend a productivist vision that ignores environmental problems, and those who privilege it bypassing the need to feed the world.

Over the years, growing in importance a line of thought that tends to see the rural sector as a risk to ecosystems. Those who think differently believe that without increased food production it will not be possible to deactivate the consequences of the demographic bomb that threatens the planet. The dilemma, in essence, is to clarify how much there is scientific certainty, and how much uncertainty, in those two visions faced.

No complex speculations or sophisticated calculations are needed to reach obvious conclusions. An elementary reasoning is sufficient to realize that the environment deteriorates and natural resources are exhausted. And that, while that happens, we need more and more food to satisfy the demand of a human population that multiplies at worrisome rates. We face the imperative of feeding 9 billion souls by 2050 and stopping, at the same time, global warming, climate change, and other undesirable effects of ecological and environmental degradation.

The objective of this small work is to explore these questions. There are several ways to do it, but it has been privileged to use the best scientific information available. However, it has been written in a simplified manner so that it can be read and understood by a non-specialized public. However, rather than looking for definitive answers, the work asks challenging questions for the problem exposed.

The full document is only available in Spanish at [https://www.grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Las dos caras de Jano.pdf](https://www.grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Las_dos_caras_de_Jano.pdf)



## Beyond the footprint: Two tales on water, carbon and food

*Ernesto Viglizzo and Florencia Ricard- April 2017*

Global warming, climate change and water scarcity have emerged as three big environmental challenges that nowadays are also affecting the sustainability of food production and socio-economic development.

Thus, the issue of carbon and water footprints has been cause of increasing concern of food-exporting countries in the Southern Cone Countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). The fear that agricultural footprints can be used as argument to raise commercial barriers or trigger protectionist policies in traditional markets is cause of growing concern in the region. Therefore,

the aim of this lecture is to put in context the question of water use, carbon emission and food production in the Southern Cone region and propose strategic ways to undertake the issue.

Because of its large availability of land and renewable water, the region plays an increasing strategic role in global food and water security by exporting food and virtual water to food- and water-scarce countries. Fair trade and open markets are the ways to guarantee food and water security to an increasingly interconnected world.

The scientific evidence does not support that markets can use the notion of water and carbon footprint to raise potential trade barrier. The water embedded in food and the carbon released throughout the food chain in various food export countries is fully irrelevant in practical terms and have no measurable impact on the global water and carbon balance. Problems related to carbon emission and water use in agriculture should be resolved on broad-scale basis beyond the inconsequential small-scale footprint view.

The full document is available at [http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Beyond-the-footprint-MFR-27-03-17-2 .pdf](http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Beyond-the-footprint-MFR-27-03-17-2.pdf)



## Prioritizing Strategies to Address Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation in the Southern Cone

*Ernesto Viglizzo – August 2015*

Climate change is overwhelming and the international community demands prompt solutions. Its consequences are felt at a quicker pace than that predicted by scientists. Given that consequences go beyond national borders, common sense dictates that we must address the problem with a unified regional vision.

There are three main concerns in connection with the way climate change affects agriculture in the ABPU region: i) the vulnerability of rural areas, ii) adjustment of agriculture to climate change; iii) mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in agricultural production and the agricultural industry.

It is likely that international pressure on food producing countries to reduce their GHG will increase in the future. But this could not be achieved in practice without drastically reducing current agricultural production levels. What would this imply in terms of international mitigation, on the one hand, and in terms of food and water security on the other?

Taking that into account, the document summarizes GPS' position with respect to climate change and agriculture as follows:

(1) The share of agriculture in the economy of ABPU countries cannot be reduced without severely affecting global food and water security;

(2) The non-voluntary reduction of agricultural production in the ABPU region would only result in an insignificant reduction in GHG emissions at the global scale;

(3) In ABPU countries, non-voluntary removal of ruminants from production systems would probably cause irreversible damage to commercial food production and to the small rural communities living on marginal land that is not suitable for grain or the breeding of non-ruminant species.

(4) In strategic terms, common sense indicates that the ABPU region should give priority to processes for adapting to climate change rather than to those to mitigate GHG.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/en/publicaciones/documento-de-posicion-priorizando-estrategias-frente-al-cambio-climatico/#more-1916>



## Greenhouse gases (GHG) mitigation in the rural sector of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and its potential impact on global food and water security\*

*Ernesto Viglizzo and Florencia Ricard – July 2015*

This work analyzes current figures of GHG emission in the ABPU region and, the same time, current figures and trends of food and virtual water exports from this region. By linking those factors, it discusses the ABPU capacity to mitigate GHG emissions in the rural sector, and its relation to global food and water security.

First, it shows that, after a period of persistent GHG increase, emissions tended to decline in ABPU during the last decade. This behavior can be explained by factors such as national policies and market events that have discouraged the deforestation of new lands, particularly in the case of Brazil and Argentina, or boosted afforestation in the case of Uruguay. On the other hand, private and public organizations have made a considerable effort to boost the incorporation of minimum/zero-tilling practices that reduce fossil energy consumption and GHG emissions. Despite disparities among countries, the widespread adoption of reduced tillage was an outstanding achievement of the region.

Then, it asks about the role that ABPU agriculture plays in global food and water security. It shows the importance of ABPU region for providing water security to China and European Union (EU). Through the trade of grains and meats, ABPU countries provide in average 30% of the "virtual water" that China and EU purchased in the world.

Finally, it presents a trilemma among carbon mitigation, food and water security. It concludes that a disproportionate price should be paid in terms of global food and water security to achieve a negligible reduction of global GHG emissions. The most basic reasoning indicates that such strategy would be unsuitable as well as impracticable both in regional and global terms. Common sense indicates that mitigation strategies should not be focused on food production, but on those economic sectors that today have the higher technological and operative possibility of reducing GHG emissions. It remarks that an eye should first be put on emissions in country-energy systems, residential and public buildings, luxury wastes and transport means.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/greenhouse-gases-ghg-mitigation-in-the-rural-sector-of-argentina-brazil-paraguay-and-uruguay-and-its-potential-impact-on-global-food-and-water-security/>



## Climate Change in the ABPU region: Threats and opportunities

*Ernesto Viglizzo- March 2015*

Climate change is sweeping the planet and requires the international community to take sensible decisions. In this context, this paper addresses the implications for ABPU, given the importance of these countries for global food security.

The document describes the main vulnerabilities of the ABPU region to climate change, the trends currently observed and the future scenarios. It then underlines the need to advance in adaptation measures to climate change and cites autonomous adaptation examples.

At same time, it is defined as urgent to make progress in mitigating warming, but analyzing ABPU's responsibility in it and comparing emissions with countries with higher per capita income.

All this leads to challenge the arguments that put into question ABPU agriculture due to its current agricultural production systems, showing its low impact on GHG emissions, the reduction in rates of deforestation, among other environmental variables.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/en/publicaciones/cambio-climatico-en-la-region-abpu-argentina-brasil-paraguay-y-uruguay-amenazas-y-oportunidades/#more-1701>



## Summary of the current status of forestry management and organization in ABPU.

*GPS - September 2014*

Through its local partners, GPS makes available a compendium of the existing legal framework, and the laws applicable to forestry in each of the four countries of the region. It also makes a brief historical review of the activity by country and of its importance in each of such countries.

The full document is only available in Spanish at  
<http://grupogpps.org/category/publicaciones/page/2/>

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## Carbon Footprint and Sustainable Intensification in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

*Ernesto Viglizzo – May 2014*

The work carries out an analysis of the carbon footprint in primary agricultural production in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay which allows detect diverse and heterogeneous behaviors among the four countries.

This is done in a context that has concluded that a regional problem to be prioritized is the assessment of the carbon footprint agricultural lands in the four countries, given that the rapid expansion of the agricultural frontier, especially in Argentina and Brazil, is causing a high rate of conversion of natural into agricultural and grazing lands. This transformation is inevitably accompanied by GHG emissions (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) normally resulting from human interventions on natural lands of forests, savannas and grasslands.

This analysis focuses on two environmental concepts that will have a growing importance as commercial barriers to the international market of agricultural products increase: (a) the carbon footprint and (b) the sustainability of the intensification of production systems.

The study covers the four countries that compose the ABPU region. But, as a comparison, this analysis includes indicators taken from France as a developed country with a strong agricultural sector. The basic idea is to compare our indicators with those of France as a country that normally has a critical position about the environmental actions of third-countries that export food, fibers and biofuel.

The results of this study demonstrate that the carbon footprints of Argentina and Uruguay are somewhat lower than those of Brazil and Paraguay. However, there is a remarkable aspect in favor of Brazil and Paraguay. Both countries show very clear trends toward the so-called "sustainable intensification" concept, which is a measure of the fall in negative environmental impacts as a result of intensified and increased crop and livestock yields on land already in use. Argentina and Uruguay are also aligned to the same process, although their trends are not so pronounced.

Together, the four countries show trends that permit comparing advantageously to the trends of other more developed countries. From the analyzed data and results we can infer that the ABPU

region is successfully harmonizing its great productive potential with an environmentally sustainable agricultural policy in the long term.

The full document is available at [http://grupogpps.org/documentos/GPS-CARBON\\_FOOTPRINT-Viglizzo-Jun2014-2.pdf](http://grupogpps.org/documentos/GPS-CARBON_FOOTPRINT-Viglizzo-Jun2014-2.pdf)



## Quality Management System Protocol and Good Management Practices Manual for Certified Agriculture

*Aapresid-March 2013*

This protocol specifies the requirements to be met in order for the Quality Management System to be properly developed and implemented. It is voluntary and certifiable.

Certified Agriculture (CA) is a Quality Management System (QMS) that seeks to certify the advantages of implementing a No-Till production model based on the principles of sustainable, profitable and highly productive agriculture. Farmers have a great responsibility to apply production schemes that underpin such principles, particularly in the current globalized world, where society demands more and more forcefully respect for the environment and for people.

The purpose of this QMS is to provide the tools to achieve a professional, efficient and sustainable agricultural and corporate management through the knowledge and analysis of information, which includes: records of activities carried out, quality indicators of the natural and human resources involved and energy and production efficiency indicators.

CA also allows society to know how food production processes are carried out and what their impact on the environment is, thereby making it possible to capture the value of the positive externality exercised on it.

In short, Certified Agriculture as a quality management system entails: improving efficiency and effectiveness and thus, the profits of agricultural enterprises; foreseeing all kinds of contingencies, and the possible opening of new markets or other business opportunities.

The full document is available at [http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Good\\_Management\\_Practices\\_Manual\\_and\\_QMS\\_Protocol\\_Certified\\_Agriculture.pdf](http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Good_Management_Practices_Manual_and_QMS_Protocol_Certified_Agriculture.pdf)

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### 3. Regional Agroindustrial Integration

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#### Strategic Definitions to strengthen the MERCOSUR agrifood exporter

*Idígoras, G. and Papendieck, S. – March 2018*

The purpose of the document is to propose the debate of a proactive agenda with a comprehensive vision of MERCOSUR, in order to achieve a growing export profile of the agrifood chains of the countries of the commercial bloc.

For do this, seven strategic points have been identified that could be part of a government and private work agenda. The selection of these seven areas arises from the previous work of GPS where each point has been analyzed particularly and considered strategic to achieve a MERCOSUR agro-food exporter.

It is not simple to choose which of these areas of work is the most relevant or to make a prioritization given that we would be mistakenly proposing isolated actions that have already demonstrated a low level of efficiency. That is why we propose here an integral vision, that is, a holistic strategic agenda that allows joint public-private work with multiple areas.

In this exercise of articulation of the agenda we consider very important the involvement of value chains and the most representative private entities/institutions of the four countries so that they adopt this integral vision and commit their energies to this process to collaborate with the governments of the MERCOSUR countries.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://grupogpps.org/web/definiciones-estrategicas-para-fortalecer-el-mercosur-agroalimentario-exportador/>

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#### Linking climate change, carbon and trade in the MERCOSUR food system: Do we need a common regional strategy?

*Piñeiro, M. and Viglizzo, E. –March 2018.*

Matching the future demand of food can be possible with current knowledge and technical progress, but a greater impact in terms of greenhouse gases (GHG) and other environmental issues, is cause of increasing concern. So, the big question is how to produce more food in response to the increasing population demand improving, in parallel, the environmental performance of food production. Considering the increasing role of MERCOSUR countries in global

food security, a common regional strategy seems to be quite necessary to face the challenge of harmonizing food production with environmental targets.

The main challenges for the MERCOSUR region are how to mitigate GHG emissions and adapt its food-production system to climate change and other environmental threats. A dilemma is opening in the regions: are national GHG inventories estimating carbon sequestration in a rigorous way? Some scientific evidence suggests that this issue has to be revisited. The application of methods different to those recommended by IPCC can drastically change the carbon balance of countries in the region, and this may request a revision of current international commitments and targets. Likewise, a revision of carbon footprint frameworks to assess the agri-food business is quite necessary, especially when this parameter can be used to raise commercial barriers.

The notion of sustainable intensification appears to be suitable to the region since it implies the double objective of increasing or maintaining gross productivity with less land and a lower environmental impact.

High-tech adoption by food-exporting countries will increasingly contribute to global food, climate and water security if free-trade conditions are enhanced worldwide. There are intangible services that can benefit food-demanding countries. The actual and potential transference of food, virtual water, carbon and nutrients can allow them to replenish their degraded aquifers and recover their exhausted carbon and nutrient stocks after many years of agricultural overexploitation. Free trade certainly will play a major role in the transference of environmental sustainability from some countries to others.

See full document on <https://grupogpps.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Linking-climate-change-final-PDF-con-tapa.pdf>



## MERCOSUR: Some reflections on its present and future

*Martín Piñeiro, Félix Peña and Raúl Ochoa - May 2017*

The creation of MERCOSUR had several objectives. At the beginning, the principals were political and had a great importance. In that context, the trade issue grew in importance over time, and then stagnated.

This failure was perhaps not so important in the beginning, when multilateralism was the dominant scheme in international trade. During this period the rules of trade were defined at the multilateral level and the negotiation effort was made within the framework of the WTO.

More recently, multilateralism has been weakened and was partially supplanted by the proliferation of bilateral and regional agreements. These types of agreements have been the main

areas of negotiation, where the MERCOSUR countries have been largely absent from these processes.

This absence was due to two main reasons: a) The limitations imposed by the MERCOSUR treaty itself, which establishes the obligation to negotiate as a bloc; and b) The difficulties imposed by the political situation in three MERCOSUR partners who minimized the importance of trade in their development strategies.

In response, the challenge is to reflect on the existing institutional mechanisms and the additional actions or instruments that could be designed to preserve the essence of MERCOSUR, giving the founding members a greater degree of flexibility to deepen trade relations with third countries. In view of this, four possible lines of reasoning are proposed:

- I. Develop or deepen sectoral agreements between the four MERCOSUR countries or among a subset of them.
- II. Develop new bilateral economic complementarity agreements between MERCOSUR partners and third countries
- III. Extend the background of the Framework Agreement between MERCOSUR and Mexico (ACE 54) to other existing ACEs with the countries of the Pacific Alliance. ACE 54 authorizes each of the MERCOSUR partners to sign FTAs individually with others ALADI members.
- IV. Introduce a decision by the Council of MERCOSUR, within the framework of the legislation referred to the AEC, which provides that the Council may exceptionally authorize any member to develop a preferential trade agreement (FTA) with a third country.

In any case, these possible relaxation should not weaken the intention to negotiate as a regional bloc with selected countries and regions.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://www.grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MERCOSUR-Algunas-reflexiones-sobre-su-presente-y-futuro-FINAL-con-M.pdf>



## Proposal for the creation of a Regional Unit for the Analysis of Risk to Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety in the Expanded MERCOSUR

*Gustavo Idígoras – October 2015*

This paper makes a proposal for the creation of a Regional Unit for Risk Analysis; it describes the background in MERCOSUR, the reasons why such Unit is necessary and the expected results.

Technical barriers to trade have become a serious problem for the economies of developing countries. The main difficulty is the implementation of risk analyses, which can provide the scientific basis to allow the entry of their products to international markets.

Due to national weaknesses in the development of health risk assessments, it would be reasonable to develop a shared regional strategy that promotes a common technical and scientific area that generates the health information needed to open markets, reduce assessment times in third countries, keep markets with high requirements open, promote recommendations at international organizations and cooperate in the technical positioning at the WTO.

Particularly worth noting among the expected results is the contribution to the design of the creation of a MERCOSUR Regional Risk Analysis Program in the expanded MERCOSUR (CAS); cooperation in the design of the regional operating structure; promoting the opening of markets; strengthening technical positions in international organizations, etc.

The paper makes a proposal and describes the problems on which the Unit should focus, its duties, its priority areas, its organization, structure, operating method and its aims and relations with the private sector and MERCOSUR.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/titulo-propuesta-para-la-creacion-de-una-unidad-regional-de-analisis-de-riesgo-para-sanidad-animal-proteccion-vegetal-e-inocuidad-de-los-alimentos-en-el-mercosur-ampliado/>



## Towards a collaborative agroindustrial trade promotion agenda between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

*Norberto Pontiroli - July 2015*

The work presents, in a synthetic way, a proposal of collaboration between the main institutions of commercial promotion of the four countries of the region. To do this, it carries out an analysis of the institutional structures, their objectives and the main tools available to prioritize these objectives.

Finally, it analyzes the level of support to the agroindustrial sectors within each agency and the type of pre-eminent actions, as well as the detection of those events with the participation of more than one regional agency.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/hacia-una-agenda-colaborativa-de-promocion-comercial-agroindustrial-entre-abpu/>



## Goals and Policies for the Argentine Agricultural Industry 2015-2020

*Pablo Elverdin – January 2015*

In view of the significant role our region will play in supplying growing world food demand, the Group of Producing Countries from the Southern Cone was created in 2012 as a forum for discussion and generation of proposals for the strengthening, development and evolution of the region in agro industrial matters.

This document therefore takes as a starting point the need to unify standards with the other countries represented in GPS and is the result of joint thought with various value chains that are part of GPS in Argentina. Its aim is to identify problems deemed to be critical in the formulation of Government policies in Argentina to promote agro industrial progress, social equality and equitable territorial development.

To achieve such goals, we believe that improving technologies, increased productivity, value aggregation, product differentiation, participation in international trade, social equity and the protection of the environment must be the main principles on which policy decisions are based.

That is why public policies need to be developed to support such aims and to boost the importance of our country in global food and energy trade, for which there is a promising future and growing international demand is predicted. It is against this backdrop that GPS submits for consideration a number of policies or actions designed to recognize the importance of the agro industrial system in the domestic production matrix and to strengthen the sector's capacity for growth and generation of employment.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/objetivos-y-politicas-para-la-agroindustria-argentina-2015-2020/>

## Proposed Agro industrial and Rural Development Policies

*GPS - January 2015*

Argentina has a huge production potential (in the agricultural, mining, manufacturing and energy sectors). Despite this, for over 8 decades our country has not exhibited sustained growth, but rather alternating cycles of growth and stagnation, which have entailed limited long-term progress, when compared to countries with similar resources (Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, etc.)

Based on the foregoing, the paper brings together the main points of “Argentine Agricultural Policies and sustainable development objectives” by Marcelo Regúnaga and Agustín Tejada, for the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) - January 2015 and “Objectives and Policies for the Argentine Agricultural Industry 2015-2010” prepared by the Group of Producing Countries of the Southern Cone (GPS) and coordinated by Mr. Pablo Elverdín.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/propuestas-de-politicas-agroindustriales-y-de-desarrollo-rural/>



## GPS Main actions to build regional integration in the agro-industrial sector

*Martín Piñeiro – December 2014*

This paper summarizes the guidelines, presented in various documents produced by GPS, with the goal of moving towards a greater regional integration of MERCOSUR. To do this, it takes as a starting point the need to know the initial situation status, the main existing constraints and the priority areas or topics where it would be convenient to move forward, indentifying the following:

- a) Promote a development strategy that relies on agro-industrial production and that seeks to promote trade and chain production integration among the four countries and of these with the rest of the world;
- b) Develop common rules in the four countries to promote investment in the agro-industrial sector to promote the integration of production chains and cross-border investments aimed at developing trans-latin companies;
- c) Promote an investment program for the development of connectivity that contributes to the physical integration of the four countries;
- d) Contribute to the development of a roadmap for mutual recognition and equivalences in the approval and registration of manufacturing establishments of food and drinks including agricultural inputs and seeds.

The full document is available at [http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MP-Cuatro-Propuestas\\_Eng-29-12-14.pdf](http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MP-Cuatro-Propuestas_Eng-29-12-14.pdf)



## Agro-food integration in technical, health and quality regulations in MERCOSUR

*Gustavo Idígoras – November 2014*

The working hypothesis that serves as the basis for this study is the belief that any development of an agro industrial platform in ABPU must be based on an integration that is real, comprehensive and functional to achieve the aim of being a region that is a food supplier prepared to address the challenges of food security in coming years.

The aim of the study is to generate proposals on critical issues to progress towards an agri food integration that is functional for the exporting interests of the regional agricultural industry.

The integration of regional value chains may only be achieved if there is a high level of harmonization of health, phytosanitary, safety and quality requirements for the food and beverages produced, processed and exported in the region. In other words, agri-food exports with added value cannot be promoted in the absence of reciprocal health equivalences and recognitions that allow the free circulation of agro-industrial products.

A review of the work of MERCOSUR since its inception shows that only 9 meetings of Ministers of Agriculture were held in 22 years, while, in one decade, the Ministers met within the framework of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) on 36 occasions. In fact, the last meetings of Ministers of Agriculture of MERCOSUR were held within the framework of CAS meetings. It would thus seem that CAS is the only forum for political links among the Ministers of Agriculture of the region, and therefore, the place where any proposal or idea should be put forward in order for it to have some kind of repercussion.

While much work has been done on harmonizing phyto sanitary standards at MERCOSUR working groups, such standards are only established for intraregional trade and in many cases they are not applied because one of the countries has failed to make the regional rule a part of its domestic regulations or establishes domestic requirements that are inconsistent with such regional harmonization.

The only area where there has been actual policy coordination and high participation at MERCOSUR level is the Specialized Meeting on Family Agriculture (REAF). MERCOSUR has decided to move forward on political definitions solely designed to strengthen Family Agriculture actions, programs and projects, and has abandoned the vision of promoting agro industrial chains and their international integration. There is no participation of representatives of producing sectors of exporting agri-food chains; such representatives only participate in CAS meetings.

It is believed that harmonization of regulations is the basis for the facilitation of agrifood trade and that it is a necessary condition to allow for regional production linkages and to make the platform for exporting food to the world a reality.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <http://grupogpps.org/en/publicaciones/estado-de-la-integracion-agroalimentaria-en-reglamentos-tecnicos-sanidad-y-calidad-en-el-mercosur-a-cargo-de-gustavo-idigoras/#more-1470>



## Agronegocio Brasileiro 2015-2022: Proposal of an Action Plan for Presidents \*

*Fundacao Getulio Vargas- Septiembre 2014*

Document prepared by Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), through GVAgro, Agribusiness Center, with the collaboration of ABAG and the participation of the main entities of the Brazilian agribusiness sector.

The full document is only available in Portuguese at [http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/FGV\\_ABAG-programa-governo-candidatos.pdf](http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/FGV_ABAG-programa-governo-candidatos.pdf)



## Macroeconomic coordination in the MERCOSUR: There is none today. Will it exist some day?

*Guillermo Rozennwurcel – July 2014*

Within the framework of a novel analysis, the primary purpose of this paper is to determine whether the existing level of macroeconomic coordination is sufficient to progress towards a greater degree of integration within the trade bloc. To that end, it reviews the interdependence among the economies of member countries, the synchronization of their economic cycles, their macroeconomic volatility and current integration. But the paper is not limited to this, it goes further: it makes proposals and defines guidelines that make up an agenda that could revitalize MERCOSUR. Competitiveness and potential international integration, coupled with the worldwide need to move towards greater food security, make the agro-industrial sector a strategic sector to promote greater economic convergence.

The first chapter analyzes the two main sources of interdependence: trade and financial relations. In the first case, it reviews the evolution of intraregional exports of MERCOSUR compared with the total exports of the bloc, other trade blocs and regional GDP. The results show, on the one hand, a decline in inter-regional exports, even within an international macroeconomic context that was favorable to strengthen global integration (China effect), and on the other, a low weight of such exports in the total, compared to other trade blocs. The financial channel shows that international financial conditions are moving in the same direction in all member countries, and that the effects of contagion in a given country rapidly spread to its other partners. There is thus no synchronization in their economic cycles and no incentives for coordination thereof or for cooperation. Worth noting is the experience in other trade blocs that have tried to resolve asymmetry problems through the creation of convergence funds.

The second chapter discusses exchange rate volatility in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay in the period reviewed (1998-2013) as a result of the divergence in their macroeconomic policies. Every integration process requires that the countries involved exhibit some progress in defining a minimum agenda for the gradual coordination of their exchange policies. The definition of common standards for exchange intervention, the harmonization of regulations concerning capital flows and the adoption of some band mechanism for exchange rates within the bloc would

promote this process. For that reason, the creation of a MERCOSUR stabilization fund is proposed and the establishment of a sub-regional development bank.

An explanation follows of the reasons why the agri-food sector possesses the best conditions to lead a move towards greater macroeconomic coordination.

The fourth section defines the guidelines for a possible agenda for the revitalization of MERCOSUR: a) establishment of a reasonable deadline to remove the exceptions to the Common External Tariff (AEC is the Spanish acronym) and barriers to intra-regional trade; b) construction of a common statistical base and use of the FOCEM (MERCOSUR Convergence Fund); c) other.

The paper ends with some final comments acknowledging the stagnation of trade and the absence of integration and macroeconomic cooperation. That is why thinking of a revitalized MERCOSUR requires a set of actions underpinning a clear strategy, with Brazil as the leader of this process.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/en/publicaciones/coordinacion-macroeconomica-en-el-mercosur-hoy-no-existe-la-habra-algun-dia-a-cargo-de-guillermo-rozenwurcel/#more-1458>



## Trade and Investment Policies in ABPU: Towards flexible coordination demands.

*Norberto Pontiroli and Paloma Ochoa – July 2014*

The combination of international and domestic factors (outlook for demand and supply of agricultural goods and services) represents a fabulous opportunity for ABPU, which holds highly concessional terms to lead the growth of production and global export of agro-industrial goods and services.

To take advantage of these conditions it is necessary to first solve common challenges among these countries (such as increasing production levels, increase their share of global income in the agribusiness chain and expand market access to "new rules"); at the same time they require flexible coordination in trade and investment policies.

In this context, the paper considers what should be the desired type of international integration in world agricultural markets; the role that trade and investment policies should have, the obstacles and limitations in this area, and the participation in international negotiations of ABPU's agro-industrial sectors. All with the aim to recommending possible areas of flexible coordination, departing from business demands.

In this regard, the paper recommends reducing tariffs and barriers to trade, the articulation of joint positions for eliminating distorting measures in agricultural trade, the promotion of a

common external agenda in proactive terms of promotions and trade negotiations and "regional public goods".

Among the most salient exogenous obstacles there are: the subsidizing of agricultural production and exports, the new non-tariff barriers and the potential new "rules" of agricultural trade. These drawbacks converge on the need for a common external agenda which is proactive towards international negotiations.

The most important endogenous limitations are the barriers and restrictions to trade (export duties, quotas, permits, etc.), regional macroeconomics (inflation processes), regulatory frameworks for investment and trade, connectivity deficits, and the lack of support services and trade promotion.

Furthermore, the authors promote a proactive approach by ABPU towards negotiating for agro-industrial sectors, considering that the lack of presence of MERCOSUR in commercial agreements during the past decade in the Asia-Pacific region and, more recently, the FTA's announcements for transpacific and transatlantic initiatives-TPP and TTIP- translates into higher entry barriers of agricultural goods to those markets.

The paper also makes an overview of the main competitors in the most important products of ABPU and the demanding markets. In 4 of the 8 productions selected, Asia-Pacific represents over 50 % of world imports projected for 2021.

Finally, the paper concludes by listing 7 main areas that require coordination between ABPU countries in pursuit of promoting a cooperative and joint work agenda. These are: a) subsidies, environmental measures and private standards, b) new rules, c) restrictions and trade barriers, d) investment regulations, e) connectivity deficits, f) support services and trade promotion, g) a proactive agenda of international negotiations.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Trade-and-investment-Policies-in-ABPU-Towardsflexible-coordination-demands-Pontioli-Ochoa.pdf>



## O Brasil Acabou?\*

*Evaristo Eduardo de Miranda- July 2014*

Em 25 anos, o Governo federalizou quase 35% do território nacional destinando-o a unidades de conservação, terras indígenas, comunidades quilombolas e assentamentos de reforma agrária. Sem planejamento estratégico adequado, esse conjunto de territórios resultou essencialmente da lógica e da pressão de diversos grupos sociais e políticos, nacionais e internacionais. Agora, o país está diante de um desafio de gestão territorial, gerador de conflitos cada vez mais agudos.

Além das áreas já atribuídas, existem milhares de solicitações adicionais para criar ou ampliar mais unidades de conservação, terras indígenas, assentamentos agrários e quilombolas. Cada vez mais, as novas áreas reivindicadas já estão ocupadas pela agricultura e até por núcleos urbanos. Esse quadro complexo de ocupação e uso territorial representa um enorme desafio de governança fundiária e envolve conflitos graves, processos judiciais, impactos sociais e implicações econômicas significativas.

O país campeão da preservação territorial exige que os agricultores assumam o ônus de preservar porções significativas no interior de seus imóveis rurais, como reserva legal ou áreas de preservação permanente, num crescendo que pode começar com 20% e chegar a 80% da área da propriedade na Amazônia. A repercussão do crescimento do preço da terra no custo dos alimentos é apenas um dos reflexos dessa situação.

Os pesquisadores brasileiros estão cientes de que somente sistemas de gestão territorial estratégicos poderão garantir a compreensão do potencial e dos limites da base de recursos naturais e dos processos de uso e ocupação das terras. E ajudar a superar esse grande e inédito desafio de inteligência territorial. Mas, só pesquisador não basta.

The full document is only available in Portuguese at <http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/O-BRASIL-ACABOU.pdf>



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## 4. International Relations, Trade and Investment

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### MERCOSUR-United Kingdom: Analysis of commercial intelligence for the case of agro-industrial goods

*Pablo Elverdin.- December 2017*

The document analyzes the current bilateral relationship between MERCOSUR and the United Kingdom, both from a commercial and tariff point of view. The analysis is focused on the United Kingdom's external demand for agro-industrial products.

The current state of negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union (Brexit), does not allow to advance with bilateral negotiations with Great Britain, which will only be possible once the process of separation of the European continental bloc is completed.

Although the United Kingdom has indicated its desire to replicate the trade agreements with third countries that it currently has in force through the European Union (which MERCOSUR is still negotiating), neither the time nor the processes involved in said restructuring are clear. However, presumably, other food-exporting countries, members of the Commonwealth (such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand or South Africa), could have some commercial preference in the United Kingdom, after the Brexit ended.

The commercial relevance of the United Kingdom (4th importer and 10th global merchandise exporter) makes it necessary for MERCOSUR to establish a clear strategy in face of the new opportunities generated by European negotiation, which requires paying attention to the potential gains or losses of commercial advantages in the British market.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://grupogpps.org/web/mercosur-reino-unido-2-2/>

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### MERCOSUR-Canada: Analysis of commercial intelligence before a negotiation of a free trade agreement. The case of agro-industrial goods

*Idígoras, G.; Papendieck, S. y Elverdin, P. – September 2017*

The main objective of this document is to analyze, from the tariff and commercial point of view, the current bilateral commercial relationship of MERCOSUR-Canada and its main competitors

within the universe of agroindustrial products and bioenergy, with the purpose of evaluating the impact of a possible free trade agreement trade between the parties.

The purpose of the document is to be a strategic tool for MERCOSUR in any agribusiness trade negotiation process that begins with Canada.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <https://www.grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/1710-MCS-Canad%C3%A1-final-12-10-17.pdf>



## Pacific Alliance-MERCOSUR: agro-industrial trade and trade agreements

*Rosario Campos and Ricardo Carciofi- January 2017*

One of the issues that have gained some attention in the region's trade policy agenda is the feasibility of a closer rapprochement between MERCOSUR and the Pacific Alliance (PA). This interest has been motivated by political and economic reasons. At the political level, the intention is to preserve a certain union within Latin America, which would eventually result in a disadvantage if a fracture between its Atlantic front and the Pacific countries were deepened. These voices were initially launched from the AP side, but have recently been accompanied by similar positions with the new governments of Brazil and Argentina.

On the economic level, it has been envisaged that the deepening of the commercial and productive relationship may result in an increase in trade flows between members of both blocs and thus increase the volumes directed to extra- zone.

This paper focuses on a partial aspect of this broader agenda. In particular, it examines trade in agroindustrial products between MERCOSUR and the PA and analyzes the network of trade agreements that supports trade. Ultimately, the porpoise is to examine the possibilities of further productive integration between the two blocs, and in particular to explore in which way this process could benefit from the extra-regional market access already available to AP.

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## Evaluation of current and potential agroindustrial trade between MERCOSUR and the Pacific Alliance

*Eduardo Bianchi and Carolina Szpak -January 2017*

The paper analyzes current and potential agroindustrial trade between the MERCOSUR countries and the countries of the Pacific Alliance. Based on trade figures for the period 2014-2015, a

detailed description of agro-industrial exports and imports is made, with a focus on intraregional trade, trade between the two blocs, the main partners and the most important products.

Subsequently, the commercial opportunities of the MERCOSUR countries are identified and quantified in the Pacific Alliance and vice versa, indicating in each case the countries and products involved.

The analysis shows the low significance of the current agroindustrial trade between both blocs, leading to the conclusion that there is a wide margin for trade links between both regions to increase and diversify in the near future.

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## Opportunities to relaunch MERCOSUR's international economic negotiations: Towards an aggressive agenda of external relations

*Sabine Papendieck and Gustavo Idígoras- March 2016*

This research aimed to identify an agenda of international economic negotiations that promote effective access to markets of interest to MERCOSUR's agroindustry. The current international context is characterized by a transition to multipolarism, where countries promote multiple economic negotiations with blocks and groups of countries in different parts of the world. In fact today there are more than 60 open trade negotiations and MERCOSUR does not participate in any of them. MERCOSUR has an external relationship agenda that is reduced in comparative terms and little oriented towards the generation of employment and economic development opportunities. The three countries with economic and political dialogue until 2015 were Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon.

The new agenda should be focused on limited priorities for the purpose of proving verifiable successes in trade agreements. For that GPS offers some ideas to build this agenda as contributions to the debate. The GPS proposal is based on preconditions to articulate this strategy of negotiations. These trade agreements must report potential economic, commercial and social benefits.

The change of government in Argentina and the public statements of the new administration inspire to think that there will be an aggressive trade agenda. Brazil has given clear expressions of interest in having an active agenda in particular with the EU and both Uruguay and Paraguay are publicly encouraging to recover a strategy of international insertion. In view of this, GPS considers it necessary to propose an open debate that encourages the adoption of an external relations agenda of MERCOSUR to be launched in 2016

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## Export markets for current and future agro industrial goods

*Eduardo Bianchi and Carolina Szpak – December 2015*

The paper reviews current and potential markets for a number of goods from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (ABPU). Using a chain of production approach, it examines ABPU agro-industrial exports for the period 2006-2013 and selects a set of 15 production chains that are significant in the region. It also describes the make-up of the industrial link of the chain in the four countries.

The use of the chains of production method to examine potential markets has the advantage that, for those products with an export potential, it identifies the links that will also be affected by such effort.

Taking that as a starting point, it examines existing markets for the selected links or goods, as well as future or potential markets that afford significant opportunities to increase the participation of ABPU in international agro-industrial goods markets.

The analysis shows that developing or emerging countries are more dynamic and account for most of the estimated growth in food consumption and imports.

Specifically, the paper identifies the countries of North Africa, the Middle East and China as the most interesting ones because of their dynamic economic growth and population growth. However, in terms of imports already made, the potential market of the five North African countries and the Middle East is much greater than that of China.

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## Producing Countries from the Southern Cone: Breakdown of and changes in GDP and the trade balance

*Pablo Elverdin – June 2015*

The paper summarizes some basic features of the economies of the ABPU countries, comparing their recent evolution with the behavior of developed countries and of the world as a whole.

It is not intended to be a scholarly paper and its only purpose is to provide a document that describes the recent behavior of these four economies, at length and in context.

It begins by describing the main economic and population variables of the four countries and, where possible, provides aggregate data for the OECD countries and the world. It shows the recent changes in GDP in these four Latin American economies -which have grown more than world average and also more than the OECD countries as a whole-, as well as a breakdown by sector.

It then goes on to review the foreign trade of the four countries in greater depth, showing the changes in their trade balance as well as the breakdown of trade flows and their main partners.

It may thus be seen that total exports of ABPU countries have generally followed the international trend, with some positive differences, albeit smaller than in GDP. However, Argentina and Brazil grew less than world average starting in 2012, consistently with the slowdown of their economies and the drop in their terms of trade.

The data show a clear and persistent trend towards exports of primary goods, mainly oilseeds and grain, with little room for manufactured products with greater value. The appearance of manufactured automotive products is directly related to specific bilateral/regional agreements rather than to actual competitive advantages of the sector. It is clear that there is greater diversification and greater added value in Brazil and Argentina than in the two lesser partners. However, Uruguay has managed to include agro-industrial goods with greater value in its main exports, which undoubtedly strengthens the importance of its agro-industrial sector.

The full document is only available in Spanish at <http://grupogpps.org/publicaciones/paises-productores-del-sur-composicion-y-evolucion-del-pib-y-la-balanza-comercial/>



## Participation of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (ABPU) in the agro-food market and global governance: implications of “mega agreements”

*Pablo Elverdin – April de 2015*

This paper makes a brief review of the behavior of global trade in recent years, and of the agro-food trade in particular, describing the share of ABPU countries in trade flows and their participation in global governance.

It will show that, despite the fact that these four South American countries have been increasing their share (which is still small) in global trade, and that their contribution to global food security is outstanding, they have not yet achieved greater participation in the international governance (although Brazil has made significant progress in this regard). It is clear that the participation of

ABPU countries in such governance will be more effective if it is made in a coordinated fashion, and therefore, they must work on appropriate mechanisms to achieve this.

In addition, current foreign trade patterns and the negotiation of various regional “mega agreements” make it necessary to consider what could happen in ABPU countries in these new scenarios. If such “mega agreements” are concluded, the position of ABPU countries with MERCOSUR (and as a result, of MERCOSUR itself) and with the other countries and trading blocs of the globe could be decisive for their participation at the international level, affecting the potential growth of our economies in the years to come.

Recent studies show that, if those agreements are reached, ABPU countries will suffer both at the trade level and at the level of GDP growth. The inaction in each case will, no doubt, lead to a restriction in export markets and thus, to a restriction on the growth of the region. For that reason, increasing coordination among ABPU countries, redefining goals and reviewing possibilities of association with other countries or strategic blocs (measuring their impact not only in the trade aspect, but also on the production and social structure of the respective countries) should be a top priority.

The full document is available at <http://grupogpps.org/en/publicaciones/argentina-brasil-paraguay-y-uruguay-en-el-mercado-agroalimentario-mundial-y-gobernanza-global-la-implicancia-de-los-mega-acuerdos/#more-1680>



## Argentina’s Agricultural Policies, Trade and Sustainable Development Objectives

*Marcelo Regúnaga and Agustín Tejeda Rodríguez – March 2015*

The agro industrial sector presents a strategic importance for Argentina due to its significant impact on GDP, employment and territorial development. It also constitutes a key element in the country’s international positioning.

In that context, the paper analyzes the main impacts of the agricultural policies implemented in Argentina the last decade. The study describes the objectives of the policies and the instruments used in that period, followed by an analysis of their main impacts.

Under that structure, the authors argue that agricultural policies were a significant part of the import substitution strategy prioritized by the government. This strategy assumes that domestic demand, supplied by local production, should be the main source of the country’s social and economic growth, and dismisses the importance of exports and trade liberalization to improve the competitiveness and performance of the economy in the medium and long term.

On the basis of this strategy, the vision for the agricultural sector prioritized its roles as: i) a provider of low-priced food; ii) an instrument for limiting inflation in food prices; and iii) a significant source of tax revenues. It did not prioritize its importance in national economic growth, increased exports, job creation or the social and economic development of the poorest regions of the country based on genuine production activities.

The lessons learned make it possible to affirm that Argentina's sustainable development and its contribution to global food security could improve through changes in the vision and objectives for the agro-industrial sector.

The false dichotomy between exporting and supplying the domestic market must be discarded. The national provisions of food will be ensured, with lower prices than their international equivalents, if there are incentives to increase the production and export of all sectoral products in significant volumes.

Furthermore, the competitiveness of the manufacturing sectors must be based on innovation and on their efficient integration into global value chains and not on low salaries, which require domestic food prices lower than those in effect in other countries that do not protect agriculture.

The general framework of the proposals is a development strategy that considers the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental. They are as follows: 1) Context of policies to promote growth in agro-industry; 2) Greater external integration; 3) Increasing productivity and efficiency in the use of natural resources; 4) Improving health and quality standards through the institutional redesign and professionalization of SENASA and INAL; 5) Promote conservation of natural resources and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP); 6) Increase investment in infrastructure and transport logistics; 7) Strengthening social and support programs for rural communities and agro-industrial small and medium size enterprises.

The full document is available at [http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/H\\_Argentinas-Agricultural-Policies-Trade-and-sustainable-development-objetives-M-Regunaga-A-Tejeda.pdf](http://grupogpps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/H_Argentinas-Agricultural-Policies-Trade-and-sustainable-development-objetives-M-Regunaga-A-Tejeda.pdf)





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