

Discussion of
“Is bioenergy trade good
for the environment?”
by Bourgeon and Ollivier

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Is bioenergy trade good for the environment?

- Well-written, interesting paper
- Very polished
- I enjoyed having the opportunity to read it and to discuss it

- Contribution: Model the effect of trade on GHG emissions with an intermediate good (bioenergy)

Suggestions

- What is the current related literature? Where does this paper fit in?
- Some cites for trade and bioenergy:
 - Sheldon and Roberts (2008) AJAE
 - Duffield (2008) AJAE
 - Elobeid and Simla (2008) AJAE
- Are results consistent with trade literature for trade in intermediate goods?

Suggestions

- Focus: Possibly reorder the discussion (such as numbered items under Prop. 4) to make clear the overall impact on the environment (to match the title).
 - The overall level of emissions (first and most important)
 - What happens in the north and south separately (interesting)
 - Welfare effects (this is why the South may not go for it)
- More intuitive definitions, when possible:
 - For example, give an intuitive definition of μ and an idea of whether it is likely to be large or small
 - Scale, technique effect (in case readers are not familiar

Suggestions

- Food prices: How does the change in food prices affect the welfare in the north and south?
 - Is this a main factor driving the welfare changes (increase in the north and decrease in the south)?
- Conclusion: Circle back to policy relevance discussion in conclusion to round out the paper