Measuring Food Supply Chain Performance

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MEASURING FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN PERFORMANCE

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MOTIVATION

Food production is projected to increase to meet growing demand of food

Scarcity of natural resources and socio-economic costs derived from externalities of the intensification of agricultural production

Sustainable production of food has become a key concern and hence a requirement for trade

Proliferation of certification schemes (voluntary, regulatory, etc.)
MOTIVATION

Problems:

- Harmonization
- Recognition
- Market-access requirements
- Resources
- Insecurity

Major obstacle for trade of sustainable commodities
Therefore...

Need to develop a single metric of food supply chain performance towards sustainable development based on the Total Factor Productivity approach
WHY A TFP APPROACH?

TFP acknowledges the fact that a food supply chain is first a system of production.

TFP measures are prompt to be adjusted to internalize externalities of agricultural commodity production.
Actors ($DMUs$) transforming inputs into outputs

Inputs $x^f(x_1^f, x_2^f, \ldots x_n^f)$ and outputs $y^f(y_1^f, y_2^f, \ldots y_m^f)$.

Undesirable outputs $b^f(b_1^f, b_2^f \ldots b_j^f)$. 

Comparison of actors of similar food chains.
FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY

- Efficient
- Maintain the environmental quality
- Provide social rewards and produce a sufficient and accessible food supply
ADJUSTED TFP INDICATORS

TFP Indicators

\[
TFP^f_A = Q_0(y^f_A, b^f_A) - Q_i(x^f_A)
\]

\[
TFP^f_{AB} = Q_j(y^f_A, y^f_B, b^f_A, b^f_B) - Q_i(x^f_A, x^f_B)
\]

Adjusted Bennet and Luenberger indicator
**ADJUSTED BENNET INDICATOR (1)**

- Output quantity indicator minus an input quantity indicator

\[
B^{AB} = \\
\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{p^A}{p^A g_y + w^A g_x + r^A g_b} + \frac{p^B}{p^B g_y + w^B g_x + r^B g_b} \right) (y^B - y^A) - \\
\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{r^A}{p^A g_y + w^A g_x + r^A g_b} + \frac{r^B}{p^B g_y + w^B g_x + r^B g_b} \right) (r^B - r^A) - \\
\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{w^A}{p^A g_y + w^A g_x + r^A g_b} + \frac{w^B}{p^B g_y + w^B g_x + r^B g_b} \right) (x^B - x^A)
\]

- Where bad outputs \(b\) are aggregated using shadow prices \(r\).
  Bennet indicator > 0 productivity B higher than A
ADJUSTED BENNET INDICATOR (2)

- Measure of overall welfare.
- Adjusted Bennet indicator < 0 room for improvement
- Shadow prices for non-marketed outputs: WTP and WTA

Relative performance towards sustainability

Hypothetical $DMU$: Based on international standards, targets, sustainable reference values, scientific literature, etc.
ADJUSTED BENNET INDICATOR (3)

Advantages

- Few observations required
- Easy to construct and compute
- Regional perceptions and values about sustainability aspects are considered

Disadvantages:

- Precise economic calculation is often impossible. Some values cannot be adequately captured by monetary metrics
- Some values are non-fungible and subject to value incommensurabilities.
Technology $P$: all feasible vectors $(x, y, b)$ defined as:

$$P(x) = \{(y, b): x \text{ can produce } (y, b)\}$$

- Two properties:
  1. Weak disposability
  2. Null-jointness
ADJUSTED LUENBERGER INDICATOR (2)

Limits to growth

Imposition of maximum restrictions on bad outputs and inputs

Efficient frontier regarded as an empirical standard of excellence performance towards sustainable development
HOW TO ESTIMATE THE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY FRONTIER?

- Once the frontier is established, we can compare a set of $DMUs$, to the frontier. Thus, it can be regarded as a benchmarking tool.

- How to evaluate the economic, environmental and social performance of the observed $DMUs$. 
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- Directional distance functions

In terms of $P(x)$, the directional output distance function is defined as

$$\vec{D}_0(x, y, b; g_y, g_b) = \max \left\{ \beta : (y + \beta g_y, b - \beta g_b) \in P(x) \right\}$$

- Directional vector used to include societal preferences with regard to sustainability aspects *(Are the economic, social and environmental dimension of sustainability equally important?)*
Adjusted Luenberger indicator defined as

\[
SL(.) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left[ D_B(x_A, y_A, b_A; g_y, g_b) - D_B(x_B, y_B, b_B; g_y, g_b) \right] + \left[ D_A(x_A, y_A, b_A; g_y, g_b) - D_A(x_B, y_B, b_B; g_y, g_b) \right] \right\}
\]

![Diagram showing the adjusted Luenberger indicator with points A1, B1, and An indicating good and bad outputs.](image-url)
ADJUSTED LUENBERGER INDICATOR

Advantages

- Does not require information
- Inputs, bad outputs and other social outputs can be changed according to institutional regulations, targets, sustainable use levels or relative importance of each sustainability aspect (directional vector)

Disadvantages:

- Require extensive data
- Large number of input and output variables will affect the DEA results, implying higher probability of efficient DMUs
- The determination of the weights is problematic and has a high degree of subjectivity
1) Bad outputs can be added since “bads” are not used as inputs through stages of the chain

Previous approach ignoring intermediate outputs $y^f$
2) Weighted sum of individual TFP measures where weights \( w^f \) and \( w^w \) represent the relative importance of individual actors to the overall performance.

Proportion of the total input used at each stage of the chain

\[ w^k = (DMU^k_{input}) \]

\((\text{Total input along the chain})\)
CONCLUSIONS

By providing reliable information about the extent to which commodities are sustainably produced

- Adequate solutions to disputes in the interest of the majority of stakeholders
- Avoiding costs, time and reputation damage
- Will allow imposing trade preferences for sustainable commodities
- Could be the base of Corporate Social Responsibility reporting
Further work...

- Selection of sustainability aspects and indicators
- Application of the adjusted Bennet indicator in conventional, organic and Genetically Modified soy chains in Brazil.
- Application of the adjusted Luenberger indicator in potato chains in the European context
- Comparison of both indicators based on data availability (data poor and data rich situations)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION