case studies of eight Latin American countries and is part of a series that also covers Asia and Africa. This work usefully complements the estimates of market distortions provided for developed countries by the OECD and provides a good springboard for comparison of agricultural sector incentives in developed and developing countries.

The eight countries account for nearly 80% of Latin America's agricultural output. For each country the book traces the evolution of agricultural and macroeconomic policy interventions over the last four decades. The core element of the book is a systematic empirical study that provides quantitative indicators of past and present policy interventions in each country using a common methodolgy for estimation of agricultural incentives. A lucid and accessible explanation of the methodology used is one of the most useful features of the book. Compilation of comparable and consistent annual time series of protection and taxation in the agricultural sector is a key contribution.

Latin American countries have seen major policy shifts over the last four decades, and the empirical work in this book provides a strong evidence-base for assessing the successes/failures of changing policy interventions. It also provides insight into the political economy of policy interventions in developing countries and can inform assessments of prospects of continuing reform in different countries. The book is likely to be an indispensable reference work for researcher as well as the policy maker, providing a template for future studies.

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Expl Agric. (2010), volume 46 (1), © *Cambridge University Press 2009*
doi:10.1017/S0014479709990731

Distortions to Agricultural Incentives in Asia. Edited by K. Anderson and W. Martin. Washington, DC: The World Bank (2009), pp. 573, US$39.95 (paperback). ISBN 13: 978-0-8213-7662-1.

The book assesses the effects of trade policies on farmer assistance in the agriculture sectors of selected countries in South and South East Asia, highlighting the historical background and context of the trend of agricultural productivity, share of agriculture and industry in gross domestic product. It provides a useful explanation of the effects of trade-related policy interventions through mapping the dynamic linkages of the trade bias index and subsidy indicators like relative rates of assistance (RRA). The trade bias index uses the nominal rate of assistance (NRA) for the exportable and importable components of the specific agricultural products considering the total monetary value of assistance weighted by the share of the sector in gross domestic product. Gross value of products has been estimated by considering farm gate prices. Such a valuation might not, however, fully depict the reality of many South Asian countries, as it will not reflect the existence of mark-ups arising from the price inflating behaviour of various intermediaries in the value chain of production. A rise in the NRA in the exportable component of an agricultural sector might not necessarily mean a larger production and trading of the product due to subsidy leakages arising from inappropriate functioning of the institutions dealing with subsidy targeting and its effective implementation. Domestic factors like export taxes, monthly release mechanisms, state and centre driven pricing regimes for agricultural commodities would also affect the domestic production and exports of agricultural products. One could say that Trade Bias Index and RRA provide indicative associations between level of protection and trade in the absence of regulatory, institutional and other important domestic and global factors.

Anandajit Goswami

Readers may be interested to know about the following publication, which is not reviewed because of its limited relevance to the majority of readers of *Experimental Agriculture*.

Business Management for Tropical Dairy Farmers. By J. Moran. Collingwood, VIC, Australia: CSIRO Publishing (2009), pp. 280, AU$49.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-0-643-09516-8.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0014479709990731 Published online by Cambridge University Press