

The political economy of agricultural price policy: Volume 5, a synthesis of the political economy in developing countries.

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The political economy of agricultural price policy: Volume 5, a synthesis of the political economy in developing countries

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Abstract : This is the fifth and final volume of the World Bank's research project *comparative study of the political economy of agricultural pricing policies*. The

estimates the effect of policies that discriminate against agricultural prices in developing countries and shows how such discrimination changes over time and economic growth. Political and economic conditions that shape pricing policies in 18 countries are surveyed by region (Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean). Volumes 1-3. Volume 4, published in 1992, reviews and synthesizes the results of the 18 country studies. The present book reviews and synthesizes the political economy that derive from the 18 country studies. The results provide a picture of how politics directly affect agricultural prices, costs, and incomes. Policies that indirectly discriminate against agriculture are also discussed. Such policies in the industrial sector and raise prices on commodities that farmers need for production and consumption. It describes how markets and political pressures determine agricultural policies and examines why governments tax agriculture rather than subsidize it. Analyses measure how much direct and indirect interventions handicap the agricultural sector and identify factors that can change bad agricultural policies. It is concluded that discrimination against agriculture in developing countries has generally been indirect discrimination through trade régime and exchange rate policies is of greater importance. Most major reforms of direct agricultural pricing policies have been carried out in conjunction with major reforms of the overall trade and payment

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