

International Input-Output Meeting on managing the Environment

Proposal for paper presentation

Climate Change, Agricultural Productivity and Poverty in West Africa

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Climate change is already affecting Sahelian countries such as Mali and Niger in a dramatic way, with a long-term drop in rainfall, a higher variability of rainfall leading to more frequent droughts, and higher temperature being recorded over time. These changes in turn are likely to reduce the yields of certain crops, unless policies are implemented for example to introduce heat resistant crops. This paper will use recently developed SAMs for Mali and Niger to simulate the impact on the economy as a whole of a potential reduction in yields, and thereby agricultural production. Structural path analysis will be used to analyze the transmission panels through which changes in agriculture may affect the economy as a whole. Poverty impacts will also be estimated under various levels of yields reduction and compensatory measures taken by households to diversify their incomes.

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