Domestic Trade Frictions and Agriculture

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Abstract

I develop a model of heterogeneous land quality and study the relation between trade, farming productivity and welfare in Peru, where high domestic and international trade costs pose a major barrier to efficient farming. To quantify the model, I use a new dataset on spatially disaggregated crop prices, yields and land allocations. I then use the model to measure the welfare and productivity effects of two shocks to trade opportunities. First, I study a policy of paving roads, which raises average productivity and welfare (16% and 4%), but causes some regions to lose due to increased competition from remote suppliers. Second, I study a shock to international prices that spreads unevenly across regions, generates heterogeneous price adjustments and, therefore, has distributional consequences that differ from those of a standard small open economy model.

Keywords: assignment models, trade costs, equilibrium, agriculture, productivity
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1 Introduction

In developing countries, a large majority of the poor live in rural areas. Their livelihoods are often tied to unproductive agriculture, limited by major barriers to trade such as poor infrastructure, adverse geography, and the spatial dispersion that is characteristic of rural populations. Not surprisingly, researchers and policy makers perceive the costs of domestic and international trade as a drag on incomes and productivity.\(^1\)

Assessing the welfare and productivity effects of shocks to trade opportunities (such as infrastructure policy), requires an understanding of how individual farmers and consumers react to these shocks, and how their choices interact in the aggregate. On the one hand, policies that reduce trade costs can increase allocative efficiency and welfare by unlocking the forces of comparative advantage and the use of modern inputs. On the other hand, such policies also affect the equilibrium prices of crops, especially of those that are traded only domestically. Because these crops usually constitute an important part of the diet of subsistence farmers and net food buyers, improved exchange opportunities also affect welfare through their effect on consumption prices.

In this paper, I develop a framework to measure the consequences of trade-related shocks to the agricultural sector, and quantify it using Peruvian data. I start by documenting four facts about agriculture in Peru that guide my modeling choices. First, there is substantial price dispersion across regions, indicative of domestic trade costs. Moreover, prices are higher in urban areas and the prices of export crops rise with proximity to ports, consistent with the presence of domestic and international trade. Second, farmers within a region allocate land to many crops and, third, average revenue per unit of land varies substantially across crops. These two facts suggest that land quality varies within regions and that crops require land with different intensities. Fourth, the quality of roads varies throughout the country, which produces variation in trade costs.

Informed by these facts, I then develop a quantitative model of specialization and trade. In the model, farmers can grow various crops on land plots of varying quality. They can also trade their crops, at a cost, for intermediate inputs, non-agricultural goods, and other crops, in local, urban, and international markets. Differences in land quality across regions and in land intensity across crops generate domestic and international trade, while domestic trade costs discourage it. The resulting model is a hybrid between a small open economy

\(^1\)According to the World Bank’s World Development Report, as of 2002, 75% of the world poor were rural dwellers (The World Bank (2007)). The same Report relates developing countries’ agricultural performance to within-country variation in access to markets and land quality (p. 54). Likewise, a recent Inter-American Development Bank report reflects on how transport costs limit overall exporting activity: “high domestic transport costs can push exports to concentrate in just a few areas [...] while squeezing gains or simply locking out of trade large swaths of the country” (Mesquita Moreira, Blyde, Volpe, and Molina (2013), p. 3.)
(SOE), which takes international prices as given, and a closed economy, where prices are determined by regional trade within the country. The equilibrium features price dispersion and incomplete land specialization across regions, as in the data. Moreover, productivity and welfare are determined by market access and comparative advantage.

To quantify the theory, I construct a novel data set combining several sources of data on Peruvian agriculture. I use government statistics on land allocation, production, and prices to estimate crop-specific land quality across and within regions. To estimate within-country trade frictions, I bring in a complete dataset of the transportation system of Peru. Finally, I use disaggregated household consumption data to estimate the elasticity of substitution across crops.

Once I have quantified the model, I conduct two counterfactual experiments that illustrate how improved exchange opportunities affect welfare and productivity in the context of imperfect regional integration. I first simulate an infrastructure policy of paving major existing roads in Peru, which reduces domestic trade costs. Second, I simulate a shock to international crop prices. In both counterfactual scenarios, the key to understanding productivity and welfare effects are: (i) the initial production and consumption allocations, driven by comparative advantage, and (ii) the endogenous adjustment of prices in each regional market, which depend also on the substitutability of crops in production -linked to the degree of land heterogeneity- and in consumption.

To understand how improved roads affect farming productivity, note that, when access to markets is costly, farmers pay high prices for their purchases and collect low prices for their sales. Consequently, they specialize less according to comparative advantage and also cut back their use of intermediate inputs. In this setting, a simulated, country-wide policy that paves existing major roads increases a multi-crop index of TFP in agriculture in almost every region (16% on average).

The welfare effects of this policy are more subtle, since it also tends to reduce the price of crops relative to the rest of the economy. While the policy increases the price a farmer fetches for his products by improving his own access to domestic and international markets, the policy also improves the access of farmers in other regions, increases the supply of the same crops to domestic markets and thus decreases their price. On average, farmers experience 4% welfare gains. But a farmer in the 25th percentile of the distribution of welfare changes loses 5%, while one in the 75th gains 12%. Rural dwellers employed in the non-agricultural sector mostly benefit as a result of the policy, but can lose in remote areas where consumption prices increase.

In the second counterfactual exercise, I simulate a shock to international crop prices. In line with a World Bank scenario for the Doha trade talks, this exogenous shock mildly
increases the international price of cereals and cotton, relative to other crops. While net sellers of those crops tend to gain and net buyers tend to lose, unlike in a small open economy, international shocks spread unevenly in regional markets. Proximity to ports increases the transmission of international shocks not only to internationally traded crops but, importantly, to non-traded crops. Even for a small shock, these general equilibrium effects can be quantitatively important, leading to the opposite welfare prediction of a simple SOE model in about 27% of regions.

In addition to producing substantive results for Peru, this paper also makes three methodological contributions. First, the theory connects tightly with data on land allocations and productivity, enabling the estimation of the model based solely on agricultural and aggregate trade statistics, which are collected by many countries. This approach is especially useful for studying economies where trade also occurs within borders, because it sidesteps the need to use domestic trade data, often a limiting factor.

Second, the model treats crops as homogeneous goods. This choice allows for a simple analysis of the dissemination of price shocks across regional markets, based only on initial consumption and land shares and the elasticities of supply and demand. Moreover, when studying trade within a country, this treatment provides a useful alternative to the standard assumption that goods are regionally differentiated (Armington) which, besides being implausible at high spatial resolutions, forces all regions to trade bilaterally in all goods. In contrast, the model in this paper generates sparse trade patterns – a well-known feature of trade data – without resorting to infinite trade costs. As I show, finding the equilibrium in this model requires solving a system of equations with complementarity constraints, where the latter link, for each crop, the price difference and the trade flow between each pair of regions. This is a challenging, but well-understood numerical problem.

Third, I obtain a simple estimating equation for the elasticity of land allocation with respect to relative prices, a key quantity governing adjustments to shocks. The estimating equation captures a basic economic intuition inherent to models where factors of production are heterogeneous: As more land is allocated to a crop, the average productivity of the land used to grow that crop decreases, with an elasticity directly related to the heterogeneity of land. This parameter also governs all cross-elasticities in production – a practical compromise when the availability of few cross sections of land use and prices limits the number of parameters that can be estimated.

Peru is an ideal setting for this study because its geography is diverse, and its agriculture shares features with developed and developing countries alike. It is a middle income country where a few large urban markets are often the destination of traded agricultural produce, but where some well-connected regions produce for export markets. Eighty six percent
of the national highway system is unpaved, yet dirt roads coexist with modern highways. Geography also plays a major role in shaping trade patterns: the country is divided in two by the Andes, with rainforests to the east and deserts and fertile valleys to the west. Transport and geography in Peru produce large variation in access to markets, as shipping crops even between relatively close locations can be very costly. Geography is also a basis for specialization based on comparative advantage, because weather and land quality vary drastically within the country. And while large farms on the coast often employ modern techniques, isolated Andean and jungle regions still use traditional farming methods. Finally, about 25 percent of the labor force is employed in agriculture, much like in other developing countries.

This paper relates to the literature on equilibrium models of trade in agriculture, such as Costinot, Donaldson, and Smith (2016), Fajgelbaum and Redding (2014), Costinot and Donaldson (2014) and Costinot and Donaldson (2012), who study how trade opportunities mitigate climate change, drive structural transformation, and improve welfare. I make several contributions to this literature. I provide a parsimonious framework to study prices and allocations when regions that produce homogeneous goods are partially integrated with each other and the rest of the world. These modeling elements are important in my application to Peru and can provide an apt description of other developing economies. Yet, in terms of the general equilibrium structure of the model, they entail a strong departure from the literature and provide new insights on the regional adjustment to trade shocks. The model allows me to trace separately the effect of domestic trade costs on productivity through specialization and input use. I also show how to incorporate different land-use intensities across crops into a tractable model of production. Finally, unlike Donaldson (2015), who integrates the Ricardian model of Eaton and Kortum (2002) with Indian regional trade data, my model yields predictions for land shares across crops; this allows me to make contact with land use data, which is more widely available than data on within-country trade. In this context, I measure land heterogeneity using an equilibrium relationship between data on land allocations and measures of potential yields from standard agronomic models.

More broadly, this paper also speaks to the literature that documents the role of agriculture in the low productivity of developing countries (Gollin, Lagakos, and Waugh (2013) and Restuccia, Yang, and Zhu (2008)) and proposes explanations for this finding, such as...
worker sorting across sectors (Lagakos and Waugh (2013)), policy barriers to efficient farm size (Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2014)), and trade frictions (Tombe (2015), Adamopoulos (2011), and Gollin and Rogerson (2014)). This paper shows that transportation technology in developing countries is a constraint that limits the use of modern inputs, and that improving this technology can lead to a more productive allocation of land and labor. To do so, it develops a quantitative model of spatial equilibrium that focuses on domestic trade costs and, after estimating them directly, measures their impact on factor allocation, productivity, and incomes.

2 Four motivating facts

In this section, I document four observations about agriculture in Peru and explain how those facts motivate my modeling approach. First, there are large, systematic differences in crop prices across regions, and between urban and rural areas, indicative of domestic barriers to trade. Second, regions tend to grow many crops, which suggests land quality heterogeneity. Third, average revenue per unit of land varies significantly across crops, which suggests that crops use land with different intensities. Fourth, road quality varies throughout the country. The sample I use throughout contains the top 20 crops by value of production, in 194 provinces in Peru.\footnote{I obtain the first three observations using a national data set on agricultural statistics and household consumption surveys. The crops included in the analysis are rice, potato, coffee, yellow maize, alfalfa, asparagus, banana, cassava, amilaceo maize, grape, cotton, onion, choclo maize, bean, avocado, wheat, cacao, orange, barley, and tangerine. To obtain the fourth observation I use a comprehensive dataset on the road system in Peru. The details of the construction of the data set are contained in Section 5 and Appendix J.}

There are large spatial differences in farm gate and consumer prices. Figures 1(a) and 1(b) give an example of variation in farmgate prices across regions using coffee, one of Peru’s main exports. The left panel displays the large variation in the price of coffee across regions that produce it, while the second shows that farmgate prices decline with distance to the capital (Lima), which also contains the main sea port.

To test whether prices are systematically different across regions, we can use unit values calculated from household surveys, which approximate consumer prices and for which we have many observations per region (Deaton (1997), Ch. 7). Table 1 shows the results of regressing log unit values on two different sets of dummies. Column 1 shows, for each crop, the F statistic of a joint significance test for region dummies. Indicative of spatial dispersion, we reject the null that these dummies have no explanatory power. Column 2 shows the $R^2$ of
the regression, which indicates that a large fraction of the price variation is spatial. Columns 3 and 4 report the coefficient and standard error of regressing log unit values on a dummy for whether the observation corresponds to an urban area. These regressions show that consumer prices in urban areas are usually higher than in rural areas, ranging from -0.02 to 0.6 log points higher.\textsuperscript{6}

These spatial price differences suggest that trade barriers prevent price equalization, and are consistent with urban centers importing food from rural areas. They illustrate that for some crops, such as coffee, international markets exert an effect on domestic prices. Hence, in what follows I write down a model that includes domestic trade frictions, that allows for international and domestic trade, and where a non-agricultural sector employs urban workers.

**Regions tend to grow many crops.** In the median region, total arable land is 82\(km^2\) and 11 crops are grown (see Figure 1(c)). Table 2 shows that most regions tend to allocate a large amount of land to a few crops and use small amounts of land to grow several others—a pattern of incomplete specialization. For the median region, the most important crop gets a 0.4 share of total land, and the average crop gets a share of 0.09. While equilibrium specialization ultimately depends on relative productivity as well trading opportunities, these data suggest land is heterogeneous within a region since, at given prices, it is optimal to grow many crops at the same time.

**Average revenue per unit of land differs systematically across crops.** Figure 1(d), presents two distributions of residual log-revenues per hectare, across crops and regions. The distribution in the solid line is obtained by removing region fixed effects and the one in the dashed line is obtained by additionally removing crop fixed effects. Crop-specific effects account for a large fraction of the variation in residual log-revenue per hectare, reducing its variance by more than half, from 0.63 to 0.20. To accommodate this variation across crops in a tractable quantitative model, I allow for different land intensities across crops in production.\textsuperscript{7}

\textsuperscript{6} Appendix Table L.9 shows that the spatial and urban-rural differences remain after controlling for total food spending in each household, which helps control for quality differences induced by income differences.

\textsuperscript{7} As illustration, consider a farmer who combines land and labor to grow several crops. With constant returns to scale and identical technologies across crops, cost minimization requires that the land-labor ratio be equalized across crops. This requires in turn that yields (the average product of land) be equalized across crops. If more than one crop is produced, price variation across crops will reflect, at most, neutral productivity differences. Therefore, with identical technologies there would be no room for crop fixed effects in explaining variation in \(price \times yield\) (i.e., revenue per hectare) across crops and regions. This intuition carries over to the heterogenous-land model I use in the paper, although it is not shared by all such models.
Road quality varies throughout the country  Figure 1(e) presents the two main components of the national highway system, as of 2011. The figure shows that locations along the coast are connected through paved roads, as are a few locations in the highlands and the jungle (towards the East). In contrast, most other locations are only served by gravel or dirt roads. According to the Ministry of Transportation, in 2011, 12% of existing roads were paved (Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones de Peru (2011a)), which creates heterogeneous barriers to the transportation of agricultural goods.

3 Specialization, Input Use, and Trade

To study the link between trade frictions, agricultural productivity, and welfare, I develop a model of factor allocation and trade based on comparative advantage. In the model, the Home country consists of many regions that differ in terms of their population and land endowment. Within a region, the quality of land to grow different crops varies across plots. In equilibrium, plots are allocated according to comparative advantage. But, on average, some regions are relatively better suited than others for growing particular crops. Moreover, crops use land with different intensities. These sources of comparative advantage produce trade between regions and with the rest of the world, and drive patterns of specialization across regions.

In contrast to land, each crop is homogeneous. To grow crops, farmers combine land with labor and an imported intermediate input. Markets are perfectly competitive, but trade across regions and with the rest of the world is costly. Trade costs impede specialization and hence diminish productivity. Regions farther away from major ports use less of the intermediate input because its price is relatively high, which also diminishes productivity.

The assumption that land is heterogeneous reflects that, in reality, the suitability of a location to grow a crop depends on the quality of the soil, altitude, weather, etc. To make contact with observed land allocations, I introduce assumptions on technology and the distribution of crop-specific land quality that ensure that land allocation adjusts smoothly with changes in crop prices and average land quality. With these assumptions, the model delivers simple, estimable equations for land allocation and revenue shares across crops.

In what follows, I model trade costs using the iceberg formulation, which avoids specifying the details of the transportation sector. While in several models iceberg costs are a condition for tractability, the tractability of the model I present would remain with an explicit transportation sector and additive trade costs.
3.1 Environment

Geography and Commodities  I divide the world into Home –the focus of attention– and Foreign. Home consists of regions indexed \( i = 1, \ldots, I \). I denote Foreign by \( i = F \). When a region is treated as an importer, I use the index \( n \). There are \( k = 1, \ldots, K \) homogeneous agricultural goods (crops, for short). The rest of goods for consumption are summarized in a “manufactured” good, denoted by \( M \). There is also an intermediate input \( x \), used in agricultural production, which is imported from Foreign.

Agents  In each region \( i \), there are three agents. The representative consumer owns land and supplies labor; he rents out his factor inputs and purchases consumption goods in local markets. The representative producer also trades in local markets, where he hires labor, rents land, and sells the output he produces. The trader in \( i \) purchases goods in \( i \)'s local market, ships them to other regions in Home and sells them there. The trader can also buy and sell goods for trade between region \( i \) and Foreign.\(^8\)

Preferences and Endowments  The consumer in region \( i \) spends a fraction \( b \) of income on agricultural goods and the rest on manufactured goods, \( C_{i,M} \).\(^9\)

\[
U_i = \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} a_k^\frac{1}{\sigma} C_{i,k}^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}} C_{i,M}^{1-b},
\]

where \( \sigma > 0 \) is the elasticity of substitution across agricultural goods. I normalize the weights to add up to one: \( \sum_{k=1}^{K} a_k = 1 \), with \( a_k > 0 \). Since consumers will be the only agents with income to spend in equilibrium, and Foreign will be summarized by a vector of prices, these are the only preferences we need to specify.

The household supplies inelastically its endowment of heterogeneous land, which consists of a continuum of plots. I denote the set of plots by \( \Omega_i \), and all plots, indexed by \( \omega \), have size one. The total amount of land in the region is \( H_i = \int_{\Omega_i} d\omega \). The household in region \( i \) also supplies labor inelastically to agriculture, \( L_{i,A} \), and to manufacturing, \( L_{i,M} \).\(^{10}\)

\(^8\)Because this model does not produce analytic expressions for trade flows, trading technologies play an essential role in the definition of the equilibrium. Traders are not a standard modeling choice, but they are quite useful to explain the equilibrium use of these technologies.

\(^9\)This assumption allows me to attribute all income to a single representative consumer, but the model will miss expenditure changes induced by large changes in income. There is a recent literature that explains how non-homotheticity helps reconcile trade models with observations on international trade. See Fieler (2011), Markusen (2013), and Fajgelbaum and Khandelwal (2016). Atkin (2013) shows how local abundance shapes preferences and the benefits of trade.

\(^{10}\)In line with recent research (e.g., Restuccia, Yang, and Zhu (2008); Tombe (2015); Gollin, Lagakos, and Waugh (2013), Swiecki (2014)) in my data there are large differences in value added per worker across sectors,
Technology  I introduce two assumptions about the production function and the distribution of land quality to take the model to data. The workings of the rest of the model, however, and the definition of equilibrium are independent of these specific details.

Assumption 1. The technology to grow crop $k$ exhibits constant returns to scale. It combines labor, the intermediate input, and land. The suitability of plot $\omega$ in region $i$ for producing crop $k$ is captured by an efficiency shifter $\Lambda_{i,k}(\omega) \geq 0$,

$$q_{i,k}(\omega) = (l_{i,k}(\omega))^{\alpha_k} (x_{i,k}(\omega))^{\beta_k} (\phi_{i,k}(\omega)\Lambda_{i,k}(\omega))^{\gamma_k}$$

where $q_{i,k}(\omega)$ is the output of crop $k$, $l_{i,k}(\omega)$ and $x_{i,k}(\omega)$ are labor and intermediate inputs, and $\phi_{i,k}(\omega)$ is the share of plot $\omega$ allocated to $k$. The cost shares $\alpha_k$, $\beta_k$ and $\gamma_k$ vary across crops $k$, but $\alpha_k + \beta_k + \gamma_k = 1$, $\forall k$.

Setting the plot-level elasticity of substitution among inputs to one fixes the cost shares, but provides a large gain in tractability. It also implies that yield – the average product of land – is a choice that responds to the prices of inputs, which will be important in the estimation of the model (Section 6).

The following assumption ensures that we obtain a structural equation for the allocation of land across crops,

Assumption 2. The vector of land qualities for producing different crops $k$ in region $i$, plot $\omega$, $(\Lambda_{i,k}(\omega))$, is Fréchet i.i.d with parameters $(\tilde{\gamma}_A A_{i,k}, \theta)$,

$$\mathbb{P} [\Lambda_{i,k}(\omega) \leq \Lambda] = e^{-\tilde{\gamma}_A A_{i,k}^{\theta} \Lambda^{-\theta}}.$$

where $\tilde{\gamma} \equiv \left[\Gamma \left(1 - \frac{1}{\theta}\right)\right]^{-1}$. In a region where growing crop $k$ is impossible, I set $A_{i,k} = 0$.

In this probabilistic representation, the parameter $A_{i,k}$, shared by all plots $\omega$ in region $i$, relates to the average land quality for growing crop $k$ in that region. Thus, a high value of $A_{i,k}$ means that the land quality of every plot in the region is high for crop $k$. Within which put the assumption of labor immobility much closer to the data (see also Dix-Carneiro (2014)). In the data, value added is 70% lower in agriculture relative to non-agriculture in the median department in the country. For the cases of perfectly elastic and perfectly inelastic labor supply across sectors, the process for choosing parameters in the model quantification is independent of this assumption about the labor market. An alternative would be to introduce a tractable model of worker selection, as in Lagakos and Waugh (2013), which I explore in Section 8.

11 The empirical cross-country literature on agriculture usually allows for a degree of substitutability across inputs. See, for example, Hayami and Ruttan (1985) and, more recently, Restuccia, Yang, and Zhu (2008).

12 Here $\Gamma (\cdot)$ is the Gamma function. The normalization is innocuous, and just simplifies the algebra later on.
region \(i\), between-plot dispersion in land quality decreases with \(\theta\), an inverse measure of land heterogeneity.\(^{13}\)

Manufacturing uses only labor, \(l_{i,M}\), to produce a homogeneous output: \(y_{i,M} = T_i l_{i,M}\), where \(T_i\) is a labor productivity coefficient.

### 3.2 Markets

**Trade costs**  Trade in crops is costly, and subject iceberg trade costs: for a unit of crop \(k\) to arrive from \(i\) to \(n\), \(d_{ni,k} \geq 1\) units must be shipped. I normalize \(d_{nn,k} = 1\), all \(n, k\). I also assume that costs are symmetric, so \(d_{ni,k} = d_{in,k}\), and I impose the triangle inequality, i.e., \(d_{ni,k} \leq d_{nj,k} \times d_{ji,k}\). Manufactured goods are costlessly traded within Home, but cannot be traded between Home and Foreign.\(^{14}\)

**Prices in Domestic and International Markets**  Each region in Home has local markets for land, labor, the imported agricultural intermediate and consumption goods. In region \(i\), let \(w_{i,A}\) and \(w_{i,M}\) be the wages for agricultural and manufacturing labor, \(\rho_i\) the price of the intermediate input, \(p_{i,k}\) the price of crop \(k\), for all \(k\), and let \(r_i(\omega)\) denote the rental rate of plot \(\omega\). The price of the manufactured good, \(p_M\), is the same across regions.

Region \(i\) in Home can trade crops with Foreign, bearing the cost induced by getting crops to and from the port. For example, \(i\) can buy a unit of crop \(k\) for \(d_{iF,k} p_{F,k}\), or sell a unit of crop \(k\) for \(p_{F,k} / d_{Fi,k}\), where \(p_{F,k}\) is the price at the port. Foreign is also the only producer of the intermediate input, which costs \(\rho_F\) there.\(^{15}\) Region \(i\) takes these international prices as given, just like a small open economy; they remain unchanged regardless of the amount of international trade.

### 3.3 Consumer, producer and trader decisions

**Consumers**  The representative household uses all of its income to purchase consumption goods. The consumer’s problem is, therefore, to maximize (1) subject to the budget

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\(^{13}\)Allowing for certain types of correlation across plots, within a region, does not change the results, and only requires redefining some variables. See for example Eaton and Kortum (2002), footnote 14. See also Ramondo and Rodriguez-Clare (2013) for a multivariate extension of the Fréchet distribution.

\(^{14}\)I simplify non-agricultural trade by shutting down trade with ROW, assuming that the counterfactuals will not change the propensity to trade those goods internationally. Moreover, I assume that the manufactured good is freely traded domestically. This assumption can be motivated by the notion that manufactured goods are less affected by spoiling and bruising than crops. The practical implication is that trade cost reductions have a relatively stronger effect on the agricultural sector.

\(^{15}\)The assumption that Foreign is the only producer of intermediate inputs is a good representation of reality in the case of Peru. There, between 2008 and 2011, nearly 100 percent of the fertilizer used in production was imported, according to FAOSTAT.
constraint
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{i,k} C_{i,k} + p_M C_{i,M} = E_i, \] (3)

where expenditure \( E_i = w_{i,A} L_{i,A} + w_{i,M} L_{i,M} + \int_{\Omega_i} r_i (\omega) \, d\omega \) is the household’s income from all sources, assuming that in equilibrium each plot \( \omega \) is fully rented.

**Producers**  The representative farmer in region \( i \) rents land, hires labor and buys the imported intermediate input. He decides how to allocate plots of land across crops, and how much labor and intermediate inputs to use in each plot. Formally, the producer’s problem is to choose \( \{ \phi_{i,k} (\omega), l_{i,k} (\omega), x_{i,k} (\omega), \omega \in \Omega_i, \text{all } k \} \), to maximize profits,

\[
\max \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{i,k} q_{i,k} - \int_{\Omega_i} \sum_{k=1}^{K} [w_{i,A} l_{i,k} (\omega) + \rho_i x_{i,k} (\omega) + r_i (\omega) \phi_{i,k} (\omega)] \, d\omega \right\},
\] (4)

where total output of crop \( k \) is

\[
q_{i,k} = \int_{\Omega_i} \left[ (l_{i,k} (\omega))^\alpha_{i,k} (x_{i,k} (\omega))^\beta_{i,k} (\phi_{i,k} (\omega))^\gamma_{i,k} \Lambda_{i,k} (\omega) \right] \, d\omega
\]

for all \( k \). The representative manufacturing firm in region \( i \) also hires labor so as to maximize profits.

**Trader decisions**  The traders in \( i \) have access to technologies for exporting to each other region, \( n \), as well as for bilateral trade between \( i \) and ROW.\(^{16}\) Therefore, their problem is to maximize the profits from domestic trade

\[
\max \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{I} \sum_{k=1}^{K} z_{ni,k} (p_{n,k} - d_{ni,k} p_{i,k}) \right\}
\]

as well as from international trade

\[
\max \left\{ \sum_{k} [z_{Fi,k} (p_{F,k} - d_{Fi,k} p_{i,k}) + z_{iF,k} (p_{i,k} - d_{iF,k} p_{F,k})] + z_{iF,x} (\rho_i - d_{iF,x} \rho_F) \right\},
\]

where \( z_{ni,k} \) are domestic trade flows of good \( k \) to \( n \) from \( i \), \( z_{Fi,k} \) and \( z_{iF,k} \) are international trade flows, all expressed in units of good \( k \) at the destination, and \( z_{iF,x} \) are imports of intermediate inputs, expressed in units of intermediates at region \( i \).

\(^{16}\)In equilibrium, traders earn zero profits, so they do not affect demand. Their location is thus not important.
3.4 Remarks

Competitive equilibrium, profits and returns to scale in agriculture  The definition of equilibrium is straightforward but long, and it is contained in the Appendix D. In the next section, once I characterize the behavior of all agents, I provide a simpler definition of the equilibrium that is the basis for computation.

All agricultural technologies have constant returns to scale at the plot level, and all factors are paid their marginal products, so all producers earn zero profits. The rental rate for each plot of land adjusts to ensure that this is so, absorbing the difference between total revenue and the total cost of labor and intermediate inputs. Also note that, as more land is allocated to a crop, the average quality of land used in that crop decreases. Hence, at the regional level, an increase in the amount of labor, intermediate inputs, and land allocated to the production of a crop does not increase its output in the same proportion.

Note that, within a region, productivity variation occurs at the plot level. These plots are not directly observed in my dataset, and I will only use the model’s predictions for regional aggregates. Note also that farm sizes are undetermined in the model, and that all allocations in the model are efficient given the transportation technology. The model therefore is silent about the relation between farm sizes, labor productivity and misallocation (e.g. Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2014)).

The nature of trade  In this model, regions trade for two reasons: productivity differences and relative factor abundance. On the one hand, as in a Ricardian model, if region $i$ is relatively better at growing crop $k$, as captured by a relatively higher $A_{i,k}$ term, it will tend to produce and export that crop. This is clearest in the limiting case of $\theta \to \infty$ and $\gamma_k = \gamma \forall k$, which brings us to a Ricardian world with many goods and three factors. On the other hand, if region $i$ is relatively abundant in land, it will tend to specialize in goods that use land intensively (high $\gamma_k$). In fact, the limiting case of $\theta \to \infty$ and $A_{i,k} = A_i \forall i, k$ is similar to a Heckscher-Ohlin model with many goods and three factors. On top of these forces that produce regional trade, within-region land heterogeneity adds curvature to the production possibility frontier of each region, controlling how land allocations change with changes in relative prices.
4 Quantitative Implications of the Model

4.1 Expenditure on each good

The solution to the representative consumer’s problem is standard. Region $n$ spends a share $b a_k (p_{n,k} / P_n)^{-(\sigma - 1)}$ of income in crop $k$. The price of the agricultural bundle in $n$ is $P_n = \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} a_k p_{n,k}^{1-\sigma} \right)^{1/\sigma}$, and the cost of living there is $P_n^b p_M^{1-b}$.

4.2 How to relate farmers’ choices to the data

To connect the model to data on land shares, revenue shares and yields across crops, I exploit Assumptions 1 and 2, which yield simple results for farmer behavior. The three propositions in this section condense the model’s empirical predictions, taking as given the equilibrium prices and returns to factors.

The farmer in region $i$ seeks to maximize profits over each plot $\omega \in \Omega_i$, as shown in expression (4). As in standard trade theory, it is quite useful to work with unit cost functions to describe the farmer’s choices. In doing so, we treat each plot as a separate factor, since the rental rate $r_i (\omega)$ is plot specific.

For the Cobb-Douglas production function in (2), the unit cost function, which measures the cost of producing a unit of crop $k$ in plot $\omega$, is:

$$c_{i,k} (\omega) = \bar{c}_k w_i^{\alpha_k} p_i^{\beta_k} (r_i (\omega))^{\gamma_k} / (A_{i,k} (\omega))^{\gamma_k},$$

where we define $\bar{c}_k \equiv \alpha_k^{-\alpha_k} \beta_k^{-\beta_k} \gamma_k^{-\gamma_k}$. Let $\omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$ denote the event that $\omega$ is used to grow $k$. Then profit maximization pins down a relation between prices and rental rates, conditional on $\omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$,

$$r_{i,k} (\omega) = \lambda_{i,k} A_{i,k} (\omega),$$

where we define $\lambda_{i,k} \equiv \bar{c}_k^{-1/\gamma_k} p_i^{1/\gamma_k} w_i^{\alpha_k/\gamma_k} p_i^{-\beta_k/\gamma_k}$. We can interpret $\lambda_{i,k}$ as a profitability index of growing $k$ in $\omega$, ignoring land.

A competitive farmer will choose crops such that the rental rate is the maximum that can be attained in that plot,

$$r_i (\omega) = \max_k \{ \lambda_k A_{i,k} (\omega) \}.$$  

Because of Assumptions 1 and 2, typically only one crop maximizes rents for plot $\omega$. Those plots where specialization is incomplete are measure zero.\textsuperscript{17} Proposition 1 below derives

\textsuperscript{17}Appendix A shows that a representation where the land owner and the farmer are the same agent yields
Proposition 1. Profit maximization, together with Assumptions 1 and 2, implies that the fraction of land allocated to crop $k$ is

$$\eta_{i,k} = \left(\frac{\lambda_{i,k} A_{i,k}}{\Phi_i^\theta}\right)^\theta,$$

where

$$\Phi_i = \left(\sum_{l=1}^K \left(\lambda_{i,l} A_{i,l}\right)^\theta\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}}.$$

Equation (5) states that the relative supply of land to crop $k$ increases with the profitability index $\lambda_{i,k}$ and with average land productivity $A_{i,k}$. The effect of all other crop prices and productivities are captured in $\Phi_i^\theta$, the normalizing term defined in equation (6). In what follows $\Phi_i$, an equilibrium statistic that aggregates land quality and prices across crops in a region, will be linked to agricultural productivity and welfare.

Equation (5) also gives the elasticity of land allocation with respect to prices. Ignoring its effect on $\Phi_i$, a one percent increase in $p_{i,k}$ increases crop $k$'s share of land by $\frac{\theta}{\gamma_k}$ percent. To interpret this elasticity, recall that $\theta$ is an inverse measure of land quality heterogeneity and $\gamma_k$ is the cost share of land in the production function. When $\theta$ is large, land is more homogeneous, and a given increase in $p_{i,k}$ produces a larger shift in the land use pattern. Since land rents absorb profits, given the prices of the other inputs, a smaller value for $\gamma_k$ means that a given increase in $p_{i,k}$ must increase land rents more, inducing a larger land use in that crop.

While I do not observe rental rates directly in the data, I do observe the land yield and revenue per unit of land across crops in all regions. Proposition 2 below shows that data on physical yields or revenue per unit of land can only inform us about aggregate land quality in a region, because the average quality of the land supplied to a crop is inversely related to the amount of land supplied to that crop.

Proposition 2. A) The physical land yield of crop $k$, conditional on $\omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$, denoted by $y_{i,k}(\omega) | \omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$, is distributed Fréchet, with parameters $\left(\tilde{\gamma}^{-1}_{i,k} p_{i,k}^{-1} \Phi_i, \theta\right)$. In particular, $E[y_{i,k}(\omega) | \omega \in \Omega_{i,k}] = \Phi_i / (\gamma_k p_{i,k})$.

B) The revenue per unit of land for crop $k$, conditional on $\omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$, denoted by $\psi_{i,k}(\omega) | \omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$, is distributed Fréchet, with parameters $\left(\tilde{\gamma}^{-1}_{i,k} \Phi_i, \theta\right)$. In particular, $E[\psi_{i,k}(\omega) | \omega \in \Omega_{i,k}] = \Phi_i / \gamma_k$.

the same behavior.
Propositions 1 and 2 summarize how each region will adjust to differences in relative prices and relative land qualities. To illustrate, consider an exogenous increase in the relative price of some particular crop $\hat{k}$, keeping all other prices constant. As the land share of crop $\hat{k}$ increases (Proposition 1), the average quality of land used in $\hat{k}$ must decrease. But the increase in $p_{i,\hat{k}}$, though potentially countered by the decrease in crop $\hat{k}$’s physical yield, must increase its revenue per unit of land, since $\Phi_i$ increases. Conversely, for the rest of the crops average land quality increases, through $p_{i,\hat{k}}$’s effect on $\Phi_i$, translating directly into higher revenues and higher yields. Assumptions 1 and 2 ensure that the increase in revenues for crop $\hat{k}$ is identical to that of the rest of the crops. The result that increasing the amount of land in a given use decreases its productivity is not specific to this model. But assumptions 1 and 2 put constraints on the exact magnitudes of these changes.

Proposition 2 shows that within-region variation in land productivity across crops, $A_{i,k}$, does not translate into observed differences in land yields or revenues. To see this, note that in the expressions for the expected yields and revenues—the theoretical counterparts of data on yields and revenues—the values of $A_{i,k}$ are buried in the $\Phi_i$ term. This means that, although one might hope that observed land yields and revenues per unit of land would be informative about unobserved land quality, the model imposes the strong restriction that they are not.19

In light of this discussion, the content of Proposition 3 is implied by Propositions 1 and 2. This result is important, however, because it provides a basis for identifying $\gamma_k$ by comparing data on land shares and data on revenue shares within regions. Let $\pi_{i,k}$ be the revenue share of crop $k$ in region $i$’s total revenue, defined as

$$\pi_{i,k} = \frac{p_{i,k}q_{i,k}}{\sum_{k'=1}^{K} p_{i,k'}q_{i,k'}}.$$  

**Proposition 3.** Within a region, the land share and the revenue share that crop $k$ commands are equalized, up to a crop-specific constant

$$\pi_{i,k} = \frac{\gamma_k^{-1} \eta_{i,k}}{\sum \gamma_l^{-1} \eta_{i,l}}.$$  

A crop’s land share relative to its revenue share, $\eta_{i,k}/\pi_{i,k}$, will be high when its cost share is low since land will optimally be combined with more of the other inputs.20

18Since labor and intermediate inputs also become cheaper relative to output, we should expect an increase in farmers’ demand for them. This effect will be stronger when crop $\hat{k}$ is least intensive in land.
19As shown in the Appendix, the model also implies that the return to land is equalized on average across crops, and not only at the margin, since $E [r_i (\omega) | \omega \in \Omega_{i,k}] = \tilde{\gamma} \Phi$.
20Propositions 1, 2, and 3 have parallels in two well-known results in the Eaton and Kortum (2002) model,
4.3 Regional Supply and Input Demands

To close the model in general equilibrium, it is useful to study first aggregate supply in each region, which turns out to be tractable and smooth in the price of output. Aggregating across all plots $\omega \in \Omega_{i,k}$, we obtain the regional supply of crop $k$

$$q_{i,k} = \gamma_k^{-1} p_{i,k}^{-1} (\lambda_{i,k} A_{i,k})^\theta \Phi_i^{1-\theta} H_i$$

(8)

where, recall, $\lambda_{i,k} = \bar{c}_k^{-1/\gamma_k} p_{i,k}^{1/\gamma_k} w_{i,A}^{-\alpha_k/\gamma_k} \rho_i^{-\beta_k/\gamma_k}$ measures the profitability of crop $k$ in region $i$.\(^{21}\) Keeping the productivity statistic $\Phi_i$ fixed, the revenue from crop $k$ is increasing in the price of the crop, with a constant partial elasticity of $\theta/\gamma_k - 1$, and decreasing in the price of labor and intermediates, with constant elasticities that also depend on the land intensity of the crop. We can further aggregate the revenue across crops for this region, to obtain the total value of production in agriculture:

$$V_i = \Phi_i H_i / \bar{\gamma}_i,$$

(9)

where $\bar{\gamma}_i = \sum_k \gamma_k \pi_{i,k}$ is the revenue-weighted cost share of land in region $i$.

Turning to input demands, with crop-specific technologies, changes in input prices have two effects. For example, if the wage increases, the amount of land allocated to relatively labor intensive crops will go down. That effect is additional to the decrease induced by an input mix that is less labor intensive, for every crop. Although it is then difficult to find closed-form solutions, it turns out that, by defining appropriate aggregate cost shares, we can write labor and intermediate input demand in a familiar way. Defining the aggregate labor share as $\bar{\alpha}_i = \sum_k \alpha_k \pi_{i,k}$, we obtain labor demand, $l_{i,A} = \bar{\alpha}_i V_i / w_{i,A}$.\(^{22}\)

4.4 Equilibrium

To solve the model, it is useful to show that it can be represented as a general equilibrium model with non-linear excess demand functions and linear production technologies (see Appendix E for details.) First, we reduce the commodity space. Let $p = (p_1, \ldots, p_I, p_M, w_A, \rho)$ be a $(K + 2) \times I + 1$ vector that “stacks” the prices of each crop in each region, the price of the

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\(^{21}\)Revenue is then $V_{i,k} = \gamma_k^{-1} (\lambda_{i,k} A_{i,k})^\theta \Phi_i^{1-\theta} H_i$.

\(^{22}\)An analogous result holds for intermediates inputs, $x = \beta_i V_i / \rho_i$, with $\beta_i = \sum_k \beta_k \pi_{i,k}$. 

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manufactured good, agricultural wages in each region and the price of the intermediate input in each region. Let \( C = (C_1, \ldots, C_I, C_M, I_A, x) \) be the corresponding market demands, and \( q = (q_1, \ldots, q_I, q_M, L_A, 0) \) the supplies. The vector of excess demands is then \( Z = C - q \), which is a function of \( p \). Land plots \( \omega \) disappear from the commodity space because the model of heterogeneity allows us to embed optimal land allocations in the expressions for crop supplies.

Trading possibilities are captured in the columns of a technology matrix, \( B \). Techniques for trading with Foreign produce crops at \( i \) using different crops at \( i \). For example, if region \( i \) wants to import good \( l \) from ROW by exporting good \( k \), then one unit of \( l \) delivered in \( i \) requires \( d_{F_i,k}d_{iF,l}p_{F,l}/p_{F,k} \) units of crop \( k \). Domestic trade, in contrast, simply transforms crop \( k \) in region \( i \) into crop \( k \) in region \( n \), with unit requirement \( d_{ni,k} \). The matrix \( B \) contains only constants.

An equilibrium is a set of prices \( p \) and activity levels \( s \) such that (i) Markets clear, \( Z(p) = Bs \) and (ii) Traders make non-negative profits \( pB \leq 0 \), with profits equal to zero if the corresponding activity level is strictly positive. Since alternative trading techniques can “produce” the same good, one should expect that many of those techniques go unused in equilibrium. A zero in the vector \( s \) corresponds to a zero in the bilateral trade matrix, so there is room for regions not trading with each other.\(^{23}\) Zero trade flows in equilibrium arise purely from our treatment of crops as homogeneous. They are unrelated to the model of supply and transportation, and in particular do not stem from the assumption that \( A_{i,k} = 0 \) for some regions and crops.\(^{24}\) Finally, I choose as numeraire \( p_M = 1 \), which gives crop prices a rural-urban terms-of-trade interpretation.

5 Data

This section gives a brief discussion of the dataset I have assembled. The first task is to match the regions and crops in the model to the data. A region \( i \) in the model corresponds to one of 194 provinces according to Peru’s 2012 administrative division. A crop \( k \) is one of

\(^{23}\)The absence of trade linkages between pairs of countries is an established fact in the data that trade models often cannot generate (see Helpman, Melitz, and Rubinstein (2008) and Eaton, Kortum, and Sotelo (2012)).

\(^{24}\)Arkolakis, Costinot, and Rodriguez-Clare (2012) have shown that, despite their richer microeconomic underpinnings, new trade models have a similar general equilibrium structure to that of the earlier CGE models, which rely on the Armington assumption of differentiation by origin (see Shoven and Whalley (1992), p. 81, on the role of the Armington assumption in CGE models.) Instead, in this paper the equilibrium requires finding the cheapest supplier for a finite number of homogeneous goods. The equilibrium does not belong in the class studied by Arkolakis, Costinot, and Rodriguez-Clare (2012).
the top 20 crops by value of production between the years 2008 and 2011.\textsuperscript{25}

The main data sources I exploit are:

1. National Statistics on Agriculture: Collected by the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru at a finely disaggregated geographic level. It contains comparable data on prices, physical land yields, and land use, corresponding to \( p_{i,k}, y_{i,k} \) and \( \eta_{i,k}H_i \) in the model.\textsuperscript{26}

2. Global Agro-Ecological Zones (GAEZ): Estimates of “agro-ecological yields” in a grid of 5 arc-minute cells (see IIASA/FAO (2012)). These crop-specific estimates are obtained by combining information on weather, soil suitability, altitude, etc., and assumptions about management techniques (which includes assumptions about input use).\textsuperscript{27} The GAEZ project estimates the attainable yield – i.e. the average product of land – if all land in the cell is used in a particular crop. Costinot and Donaldson (2014) provide a detailed discussion of these data.

3. Geography and Transportation: Georeferenced data from Peruvian Ministry of Transportation (MTC), which indicates each road’s location, length, and quality (dirt, gravel, or paved). Peru’s road system is hierarchically divided in three levels: (i) National roads, (ii) Departmental roads, and (iii) Neighborhood roads.\textsuperscript{28}


\textsuperscript{25}Peru is divided in 24 departments. These departments are further divided into 194 provinces which, in turn, are divided in more than 1800 districts. Taking the model to data also requires identifying each crop \( k \) in the sample across different datasets. This match is explained in Appendix J, together with other details excluded from the main body of this paper. My selection of crops accounts for 74% of total value, and 67% of the total area under cultivation. Throughout the analysis, internationally traded crops are those for which the absolute value of net exports is at least 1% of domestic production.

\textsuperscript{26}I treat \( H_i \) as an exogenous endowment, which means that I neglect the relation between access to markets and the margin of total cultivated land. The link between deforestation and roads has been studied, for example, by Chomitz and Gray (1996). While this is effect is probably important from a societal point of view, I ignore it assuming the the low quality of rainforest soil for agriculture will not change productivity or welfare of farmers, the focus of this paper, over the long run.

\textsuperscript{27}For example, “[u]nder a low level of inputs (…), the farming system is largely subsistence based. Production is based on the use of traditional cultivars (…), labor intensive techniques, and no application of nutrients, no use of chemicals for pest and disease control and minimum conservation measures” (IIASA/FAO (2012), p. 38). In the estimation, I use yields attainable with rain-fed agriculture and “low” levels of management, although the results are robust to the choice of “intermediate” levels of management.

\textsuperscript{28}The National roads (Red Vial Nacional) consist of 3 north-south axes, which connect the northern and southern frontiers of the country, and 20 west-east axes, which link the north-south axes at different latitudes. The Departmental roads (Red Vial Departamental), under the purview of each of the 24 departments of the administrative division, serve as an intermediate between National roads and the more local, Neighborhood roads (Red Vial Vecinal). The latter connect populated and production centers with departmental roads. See Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones de Peru (2011b)
6 Connecting the Model and Agricultural Data

In this section, I explain the estimation of some of the model’s key parameters. First, I estimate the cost shares of land $\gamma_k$, exploiting equation (7). Second, I estimate the heterogeneity parameter $\theta$ in the model’s land allocation equation (5), using exogenous yield estimates from the GAEZ project and national statistics data. Third, I estimate a simple model of transportation costs, following the approach in Donaldson (2015), and use it to produce measures of transport costs for all origin-destination pairs. Finally, I use household expenditure data to estimate the elasticity of substitution between crops in demand.29

Factor Cost Shares: $\gamma_k$, $\alpha_k$ and $\beta_k$  To estimate the cost shares of land, $\gamma_k$, I regress $\log \pi_{i,k}$ on $\log \eta_{i,k}$ and a set of crop fixed effects, since Proposition 3 shows that crops whose revenue shares are systematically higher than their land share also have lower land cost shares, $\gamma_k$. This regression identifies land intensities relative to a base crop, so I set the country-wide revenue-weighted cost share of land to 0.22, to pin down the levels. Lacking information on labor and intermediate use across crops, I constrain the ratio of labor and intermediate input shares to be constant across crops and equal to 2.5. Together with the estimates of $\gamma_k$, this assumption pins down $\alpha_k$ and $\beta_k$.30

Figure 2(a) shows sizable differences in the estimated coefficients $\gamma_k$, as one would expect if some crops were, in fact, more land intensive than others.31 Fruit crops, for example, appear to have lower land intensities than grains. Evidently, crop fixed effects do not fully account for the differences between $\pi_{i,k}$ and $\eta_{i,k}$ in a region, as Proposition 3 would suggest. Nevertheless, the residual standard deviation of a regression of $\log \pi_{i,k}$ on $\log \eta_{i,k}$ shrinks substantially when crop fixed effects are included (from 0.80 to 0.54), suggesting that extending the model to have heterogeneous technologies helps account for a large fraction of the variation in the data.32

29Appendix K provides further detail on these estimations. The same appendix describes the estimation and provides results for all other parameters, which include: average land qualities, $A_{i,k}$, international prices for crops $p_{F,k}$ and inputs $p_F$, agricultural and non-agricultural labor, $L_{i,A}$ and $L_{i,M}$, preference parameters $b$, and $a_k$, the non-agricultural productivity parameters, $T_i$, and the international trade barriers, $\tau_k$.

30I impose a normalization for the cost share of land for the whole country: $(\sum_k \sum_i \gamma_k p_{i,k} q_{i,k}) / (\sum_k \sum_i p_{i,k} q_{i,k}) = 0.22$. To arrive at this normalization, I take the estimates for the input cost shares in Peru from Dias Avila and Evenson (2010), Table A.3a, for the period 1981-2001: cropland (22.17%), labor (56.23%), fertilizer and chemicals (7.02%), seeds (4.64%), mechanization (4.57%) and animal power (3.85%). Based on these shares, I calibrate $\bar{\alpha} = 0.55$, $\bar{\gamma} = 0.22$ and $\bar{\beta} = 1 - \bar{\gamma} - \bar{\alpha} = 0.23$.

31Previous literature has found that crops differ in their labor intensities. For example Vollrath (2011) finds, as I do, that wheat and other dry cereals are less labor intensive than rice (p. 345).

32The F-statistic associated with the crop fixed effects in the regression that identifies $\gamma_k$ is 202.76, which rejects the null that $\gamma_k = \gamma$ for all $k$ at standard levels of significance.
Heterogeneity, $\theta$  The farmer’s land-allocation decision in equation (5) is the basis for the estimation of $\theta$. As explained before, the GAEZ potential yield measures combine two types of information: purely exogenous climatic conditions and management techniques (which include the use of non-agricultural inputs). Further, these measures correspond to the yield that would be attained if a grid cell were fully devoted to growing a particular crop. I show next how to interpret the data in a manner consistent with my model, which implies that yields reflect both the decisions of farmers and the constraints imposed by nature.\textsuperscript{33}

Using the model, the yield that would be obtained using labor and land optimally, but allocating all land in region $i$ to the production of crop $k$, denoted by $\tilde{y}_{i,k}$, is:

$$\tilde{y}_{i,k} = \gamma_k^{-1}c_k^{-\frac{1}{\gamma_k}}w_{i,A}^{-\alpha_k}p_i^{-\frac{\beta_k}{\gamma_k}}\gamma_k^{1-\gamma_k}A_{i,k}.$$

I assume that this object corresponds to the measures produced by the GAEZ project, although it is not an object that we would observe in equilibrium. To connect it to the data, I further assume that there exist prices $p_{i,g}^G$, $w_{A}^G$, $\rho^G$ that rationalize the management technique assumptions used by IIASA and FAO to construct the GAEZ dataset.\textsuperscript{34} Then I can relate observations in GAEZ, $\tilde{y}_{i,k}^G$, to average land quality $A_{i,k}$:

$$\tilde{y}_{i,k}^G = \gamma_k^{-1}c_k^{-\frac{1}{\gamma_k}}(w_{A}^G)^{-\frac{\alpha_k}{\gamma_k}}(\rho^G)^{\frac{\beta_k}{\gamma_k}}(p_{i,k}^G)^{1-\gamma_k}A_{i,k}e^{u_{i,k}^G} \tag{10}$$

where $e^{u_{i,k}^G}$ is a term that captures the possibility that GAEZ measures $A_{i,k}$ with error. Using (5) to substitute for $A_{i,k}$ in (10), we relate GAEZ yields and observed land allocations and prices:

$$\log \left( \frac{p_{i,k}^G}{\gamma_k^{1-\gamma_k}y_{i,k}} \right) = \frac{1}{\theta} \log \eta_{i,k} + \tau_k + \tau_i + \delta_i \frac{1-\gamma_k}{\gamma_k} + u_{i,k}. \tag{11}$$

where, $\tau_k$ and $\tau_i$ are dummies that absorb components that do not vary simultaneously at the region-crop level. I construct the left-hand side of equation (11) using the estimated values of $\gamma_k$, as to estimate $\theta$ as precisely as possible.

Equation (11) is an estimable version of the relative supply of land. Observing a high value of $\eta_{i,k}$ suggests that $A_{i,k}$ is relatively large, too. Using equation (10), we would then predict a large GAEZ estimate of potential productivity, which we treat as a noisy measure of

\textsuperscript{33}The interpretation of the GAEZ data is contingent on the model of production. See, for example, Costinot, Donaldson, and Smith (2016), who assume that the plot-level elasticity of substitution between labor and land is zero.

\textsuperscript{34}Note that I assume that the prices that rationalize the GAEZ data are independent of $i$. I take the stance that, although the GAEZ data set models input use as a function of input prices relative to output prices, they do not take into account the spatial variation of those relative prices.
But the farmers can also choose to allocate a large fraction of land to a crop when that crop’s price is high, which is why the dependent variable also includes equilibrium prices.

By assuming that the fixed effects $\iota_i$ and $\iota_k$ absorb all unobserved supply shocks, we can estimate $\theta$ without specifying preferences, which makes this approach compatible with many specifications of demand, not just CES. Through the local market equilibrium, however, unobserved supply shocks that are specific to a crop and location would simultaneously reduce the price and increase land shares, biasing the estimation. These unobserved shocks could come, for example, from short run shocks induced by weather, or from systematic, long-run mistakes in the GAEZ prediction. If $\eta_{i,k}$ is measured with error, the estimator of $\theta$ would be biased upwards.

Data on $p_{i,k}$ and $\eta_{i,k}$ come from the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture. I estimate (11) on a long sample of National Statistics which averages more than ten years, and contains information for four departments, at the district level. Averaging the data for each crop $k$ and region $i$, I mitigate the effect of transitory shocks which, at high frequencies, are likely to be produced by short run fluctuations, such as weather shocks. Furthermore, I estimate (11) using the sample of crops that are traded internationally, as to mitigate potential endogeneity induced by local market equilibrium.\footnote{By using data at the district level I ensure a better spatial match with the GAEZ data. Note also that, with i.i.d Fréchet draws we can estimate $\theta$ based only on a sub-sample of goods.}

I estimate a coefficient on land allocation of 0.603 (std. err. 0.069), which implies an estimate $\hat{\theta} = 1.658$. Figure 2(b) relates $\log \left( \frac{1}{p_{i,k} \gamma_{i,k}} \right)$ to $\log \eta_{i,k}$ after removing the other regressors in equation (11), thus showing the variation that identifies $\theta$ ($R^2 = 0.3$). This value implies a large partial elasticity of land allocation with respect to price for the average crop, $\theta/\gamma \approx \frac{1.658}{0.22} = 7.54$. A high value of $\theta$ partly reflects that heterogeneity is limited within small regions. It also reflects the fact that, by using variation across regions, I am identifying a long-run elasticity.\footnote{While using time-series variation is plausible, it requires information on how the $A_{i,k}$ parameters change in time. It also requires assumptions on the timing of farming decisions relative to the time prices are realized.}

**Transport Costs** Since I do not observe within-country trade flows, I cannot back out the levels of trade costs that rationalize observed regional trade. Instead I construct a network using geo-coded information on the complete set of roads and altitude in Peru, and use it to predict trade costs for each origin-destination pair in the country (see Donaldson (2015)). Using coffee, a crop that is almost completely exported, I estimate the relative costs of traversing roads of different quality, by fitting (12):
\[ \mathbb{E} \left[ \log p_{n,\text{coffee}} / \log p_{i,\text{coffee}} - 1 \right| \text{geography, roads} ] = \beta_0 + \beta_{\text{distance}} \log \left[ \text{effective distance}_{ni}(\lambda) \right], \]

(12)

letting \( p_{n,\text{coffee}} \) be the price at the port and \( n = \text{Lima} \), which contains the capital and the main port.\(^{37}\) The assumption here is that all producing regions \( i \) export some coffee, which ends up either in Lima or in Foreign. In (12), \( \beta_{\text{distance}} \) and \( \beta_0 \) translate effective distance into an iceberg cost, approximated by the price gap. For a given choice of the transport cost parameter \( \lambda \), “effective distance \(_{ni}\)” is the lowest-cost path between regions \( n \) and \( i \), calculated according to Dijkstra’s algorithm. The algorithm chooses the path \( R \) that minimizes

\[ \text{effective distance}_{ni}(\lambda) = \min_R \sum_{q \in Q} \sum_{\text{edge} \in E_q(R)} [\lambda_q \text{distance}_{\text{edge},q}]. \]

(13)

Equation (13) weighs all edges of quality \( q \) used in route \( R \), edge \( \in E_q(R) \), by the cost of traversing them, \( \lambda_q \). In practice, I set \( Q = \{ \text{high, low} \} \) and let paved roads be “high” quality. Table 3 compares two versions of the model: (i) a model that constrains \( \lambda_q = 1, \forall q \), and (ii) a model that constrains only \( \lambda_{\text{high}} = 1 \). Taking into account the quality of the road improves the estimation, increasing correlation of data and predictions, and increasing the effect of distance from .36 to .48. I also estimate that, in terms of effective distance, unpaved roads are 11 times more expensive to transit than paved ones.\(^{38}\)

To obtain iceberg costs for every pair of regions, I perform the following additional steps: (i) use (12) and (13) to predict \( d_{ni} \) for all pairs of districts, (ii) aggregate the trade costs at the province level, and (ii) add an international “wedge” to calculate the costs of trading abroad.\(^{39}\) Figure 3(a) shows the resulting trade costs with Lima, while Table 4 presents summary statistics. Trade costs range from small in coastal regions, to close to prohibitive for eastern provinces.

\(^{37}\)Price gaps measure trade costs if region \( i \) actually exports to region \( n \). According to FAOSTAT, 86% of coffee output is exported, which suggests that it is quite reasonable to assume that the main port is a destination for coffee production.

\(^{38}\)The Appendix K considers alternative formulations. First, it shows that the estimates are similar—although the effect of distance is more pronounced—when formulating equation (12) in levels. Second, it shows that the relative costs \( \lambda_q \) are ordered in the same way, but with larger magnitudes, when using freight rates for a sample of 46 origin-destination pairs as an alternative, but incomplete, measure of trade costs. Finally, it shows how to incorporate altitude in equation (13), but since it is estimated quite imprecisely, I ignore its role in what follows. I use the estimates discussed above since they provide conservative but plausible trade costs.

\(^{39}\)Thus, for example, the cost of importing from ROW for region \( n \) is \( d_{n,F,k} = \tau_k d_{n,i,k} \), if \( i \) is \( n \)'s closest port. I calibrate \( \tau_k \) and \( a_k \) as explained in Appendix K.
Demand Elasticity, $\sigma$  I estimate the demand equation implied by CES preferences

\[
\log (s_{i,k,t,h}^{ENAHO}) = \tau_k + \tau_h + \tau_t + (1 - \sigma) \log v_{i,k,t,h}^{ENAHO} + \epsilon_{i,k,t,h}^{ENAHO} \tag{14}
\]

using detailed information from ENAHO on household expenditures and unit values. In (14), $s_{i,k,t,h}^{ENAHO}$ is the expenditure share and $v_{i,k,t,h}$ is the unit value (expenditure divided by quantity) of crop $k$ for household $h$ at time $t$ in region $i$. The error $\epsilon_{i,k,t,h}^{ENAHO}$ reflects that expenditure in each category and physical quantities are measured with error. Since unit values are measured as the ratio of expenditure and quantity, these measurement errors create a bias concern (see See Deaton (1997)).

I therefore instrument unit values with the GAEZ potential productivity estimates, $\tilde{y}_{i,k}^G$. The instrument captures the idea that places that are relatively bad at growing a crop will tend to have higher prices. Results are similar when using region, instead of household, fixed effects. The estimate in the second stage is $\hat{\sigma} = 2.386$, while OLS yields $\hat{\sigma}_{OLS} = 0.86$. These results are consistent with measurement error inducing a positive correlation between expenditure shares and unit values, and with the instruments being orthogonal to those errors.\textsuperscript{40}

7 Baseline Simulation

Solving the model requires finding $p$ and $s$ that satisfy the definition of equilibrium in Section 4.4.\textsuperscript{41} That is, the definition of equilibrium includes prices, trade flows and a set of complementarity constraints arising from the traders’ problem. The key numerical challenge in solving the model is to find the cheapest exporter for each importing region, because in the equilibrium some pairs of regions may not trade at all.

The rest of this section discusses the model’s fit at the baseline. We start by analyzing the model’s ability to replicate variation in prices and land shares. In evaluating the model, bear in mind that there are twice as many observations (prices and land shares) as land productivity parameters, $A_{i,k}$. The model, however, does a good job of capturing variation in the price and land allocation data. As I discuss next, it also generates a sparse trade

\textsuperscript{40}A value of $\sigma = 2.386$ seems to be on the higher end of plausible values, as compared, for example, with Behrman and Deolalikar (1989), who estimate 1.2 for the elasticity of substitution between broad food groups, at low levels of income. An alternative is to instrument prices using information on freight rates and international prices. Doing so yields a similar estimate of $\sigma = 2.804$. Appendix K shows these alternative results.

\textsuperscript{41}I use Knitro 10 to solve the model. Note that, with equilibrium condition (ii), it is not obvious how to use excess demands to produce a mapping for prices, should one decide to construct an iterative algorithm from scratch, as in Alvarez and Lucas (2007).
matrix, where the relation between distance and simulated trade flows resembles a gravity equation.

**Fitting Farm-Gate Prices and Land Allocations** Figure 4(a) shows the relation between log-price data and simulations, after removing crop fixed effects. Doing so focuses only on the spatial dispersion of prices – which we are trying to explain – and correctly ignores the fact that, on average, some crops are more expensive than others. The slope is .74 and the $R^2$ is .32. Note that, because we are only using National Statistics on production, we only include farm gate prices in this comparison. This is a tougher test of the model since it ignores the fact a crop will be pricier in regions that do not produce it – a price difference that the model does generate.

Figure 4(b) compares land shares $\eta_{i,k}$ in the data and model. The relation is noisier, but the predicted land shares cluster clearly around the 45 degree line, especially for larger land shares. A pooled regression of log shares in the data on log shares in the model gives a coefficient of 0.39 and an $R^2$ of 0.25. The model predicts high specialization relative to the data, which generates some extremely small shares and drives the slope away from one. Figure L.2 shows the fit by crop.

Intuitively, the main reason the model does not perfectly fit the data on prices and land is that we have used variation in prices and land shares to pick only the $A_{i,k}$ parameters, which means we only choose half as many parameters as observations.\textsuperscript{42} Other reasons include the fact that values of $d_{ni,k}$ are just estimates, subject to sampling variation, and that preferences are simple, and independent of income and region. Finally, actual cropping choices may also reflect the farmers’ intention to diversify risk, so the model may predict too much specialization.

**Trade flows, sparsity, and non-analytic gravity** The simulated bilateral matrix is quite sparse: Of $I \times (I - 1) \times K/2 = 374,420$ possible domestic trade links, there are positive trade flows in only 2929 of them (0.8%). The average region has 15 positive trade links (either as an importer or exporter).\textsuperscript{43}

The model generates a numerical relation between trade flows and trade barriers, reminiscent of the gravity equation.\textsuperscript{44} Deardorff (1998) shows that, provided that specialization

\textsuperscript{42}Recall we estimate or calibrate only $(I + 2) \times K + 5$ parameters: the $I \times K + 1$ technology parameters $A_{i,k}$ and $\theta$, the $K$ international wedges $\tau_k$, the $K$ consumption parameters $a_k$, and the 4 trade cost parameters $\{\beta, \lambda\}$.

\textsuperscript{43}A solver will only produce approximate equilibria. I classify as zeros those flows for which $z_{ni,k}$, is less than the convergence criterion parameter I provide the solver, $10^{-6}$.

\textsuperscript{44}Current trade workhorses such as Eaton and Kortum (2002), quantitative versions of Melitz (2003), like Chaney (2008), or the Armington version of the model in this paper, due to Costinot, Donaldson, and Smith.
in production and trade are stable, a model like this yields bilateral trade flows that satisfy gravity, with an elasticity of trade flows with respect to trade barriers equal to $1 - \sigma$ (reflecting the intensive margin of trade). We should therefore expect that the trade elasticity be tied to the degree of substitution across crops in consumption.

Unfortunately, since I do not observe domestic trade flows data, I cannot use this numerical relation to test the theory. Close to Deardorff’s prediction, however, using simulated data I estimate an elasticity of trade flows with respect to trade barriers of $-1.44$, after controlling for origin-crop and destination fixed effects (recall we set $1 - \sigma = -1.386$ in simulations). Further, the elasticity of simulated trade flows to effective distance is $-0.277$. This value captures the negative effect of distance on trade, although it is quite below $-1$.\textsuperscript{45}

In different agricultural contexts, previous research has estimated a higher value for these trade elasticities, using trade data instead.\textsuperscript{46} A reason is that my model emphasizes only the intensive margin of trade. Other frictions (e.g. information frictions) that correlate with distance will tend to increase these elasticities.

8 The Effect of Improving Market Access

To understand the effects of market-access policies in this environment, I compute a counterfactual equilibrium where I simulate the paving of all previously unpaved national and departmental highways, which connect the country’s main axes with local roads. The extent of trade cost reduction is governed by the estimates of the transport cost model in Section 6.\textsuperscript{47} The policy requires paving approximately 33,000 km. of roads, 66% of which are gravel roads. It implies a median reduction in trade costs of 11.7%, with a standard deviation of 4.3%. The effect is asymmetric and trade costs that, at the baseline, were relatively low

\textsuperscript{45}This low value is not surprising, given Deardorff’s result. For example, at the median trade cost of 2.32, the elasticity of trade costs with respect to distance is .273 (equation 12), which would imply a coefficient of $(1 - \sigma) \times .273 \approx -0.378$, substantially below one. Note that the implied elasticity of .273 is comparable to previous findings. For colonial India, Donaldson (2015) finds an elasticity of trade costs with respect to effective distance of .25. Hummels (2001) finds an elasticity of ad-valorem freight rates to distance of .27, using international trade data.

\textsuperscript{46}For example, Donaldson (2015) finds an average elasticity with respect to trade costs of 3.8, across 17 crops in colonial India. Tombe (2015) estimates it to be 4.1 for agriculture as a whole, using international data.

\textsuperscript{47}In the wake Dekle, Eaton, and Kortum (2008), much recent work has used models whose equilibrium predictions can be matched exactly to data on trade shares, and has then exploited the model’s analytic properties to evaluate policy counterfactuals. A main benefit of this strategy is that it circumvents the need to estimate most of the underlying model parameters. For example, see Caliendo and Parro (2015), Parro (2013), Ossa (2014). The strategy is not applicable here, since one cannot predict changes in prices without simulating the model numerically for new parameter values.
are essentially unaffected because they were generated by traversing high quality highways. Figure 3(b) shows that regions far away from coastal cities and ports receive the largest trade cost reductions.48

8.1 Understanding price changes

Key to understanding productivity and welfare effects are: (i) the origin and magnitude of changes in crop and input prices and (ii) the baseline patterns of specialization and consumption of each region.

This policy has three effects on prices. First, it increases the supply of agricultural relative to non-agricultural goods everywhere, putting downward pressure on food’s relative price, \( P_i/p_M \). Second, for farming regions that are poorly connected at the baseline, the drop in trade costs instead raises the price of the crops they export; for well-connected regions, this effect is muted. Finally, the shifts in prices of exported and imported crops, which from the point of view of a region are exogenous, spread across the rest of markets in each region, triggering a reallocation of factors and expenditure.

To understand changes in relative crop prices, consider a simple version of the model where \( \gamma_k = \gamma \), and region \( i \) produces crop \( j \) for exporting and crop \( k \) for local consumption. Then, to a first-order approximation, a shock to \( p_{i,j} \) transmits directly to \( p_{i,k} \) according to:

\[
\Delta p_{i,k} = \frac{\left(\frac{\theta}{\gamma} - \frac{1}{1-\beta}\right) \eta_{i,j} + (\sigma - 1) s_{i,j}}{1 - \beta + \left(\frac{\theta}{\gamma} - \frac{1}{1-\beta}\right)(1 - \eta_{i,k}) + (\sigma - 1)(1 - s_{i,k})} \Delta p_{i,j} \tag{15}
\]

where \( \Delta z \equiv dz/z \), and \( s_{i,k} \) is the share of crop \( k \) in food spending. Since we assume \( \theta > 1 \), substitutability in consumption (i.e., \( \sigma > 1 \)) guarantees that an increase in \( p_{i,j} \) leads to an increase in \( p_{i,k} \).49 An increase in \( p_{i,j} \) directs spending away from crop \( j \) and shifts land into crop \( j \), raising the demand and decreasing the supply of crop \( k \). The transmission will be stronger if crops \( j \) and \( k \) are important in production and consumption, as measured by their consumption and land shares. Whether the transmission strength increases with \( \theta \) or \( \sigma \) depends on whether the demand reallocation dominates the supply reallocation.50

48This is a large-scale shock which showcases the general equilibrium effects implied by the model. More targeted shocks can also be easily examined, either for infrastructure policy or other trade related shocks, as I do in the next section on international prices.

49Recall that \( \alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1 \), so \( \theta/\gamma - 1/(1-\beta) > 0 \). For clarity, equation (15) ignores the effect of \( p_{i,j} \) on total spending, as well as potential changes in intermediate input prices. See the Appendix H for proofs to this and the following first-order approximations.

50That is, whether \( \partial (\Delta p_{i,k}/\Delta p_{i,j}) / \partial \theta > 0 \) and \( \partial (\Delta p_{i,k}/\Delta p_{i,j}) / \partial \sigma > 0 \). For example, if \( j \) is a pure export good, \( s_{i,j} = 0 \), there are no demand shifts, and the transmission is increasing in \( \theta \). If \( j \) is a pure import good, \( \eta_{i,j} = 0 \), there are no supply shifts, and the transmission is increasing in \( \sigma \).
Comparative advantage, in the form of Ricardian differences in land productivity and relative factor endowments, drives regional specialization. Within-region heterogeneity in land quality, inversely related to $\theta$, limits the degree of specialization. This pattern of specialization is captured by land shares, $\eta_{i,k}$ and consumption shares, $s_{i,k}$. In my baseline quantification, expenditure is concentrated in a few crops (potatoes, rice, yellow maize, and wheat), but the production allocations differ markedly across regions (see Appendix Table L.17). Using equation (15), we then predict a strong demand-driven transmission of prices among high-consumption goods, and from those goods to the rest. Further, we expect this transmission to be correlated across regions.

8.2 Quantitative effects of the policy

Productivity Since each region can grow many crops, we need a multi-crop index of total factor productivity, which regional value added provides. Moreover, to express TFP in units that do not change across equilibria, I express this index in units of the intermediate input at the port. We can then compute a simple expression for the first-order approximation to the change in productivity

$$\Delta TFP_i = \frac{1}{1 - \bar{\beta}_i} \sum_k \pi_{i,k} \Delta p_{i,k} - \frac{\bar{\beta}_i}{1 - \bar{\beta}_i} \Delta \rho_i. \tag{16}$$

Productivity tends to increase when crops with large revenue shares become more valuable and when inputs become cheaper. Changes in revenue shares, however, do not have a first-order effect on TFP (see Costinot and Vogel (2015)), although may drive changes in equilibrium prices, as implicit in (15).

Without knowledge of the changes in prices, for which we need to compute the new equilibrium, this formula can be applied directly only in special cases. For instance, suppose a region exports all its output to the rest of the world, while it imports the intermediate input. In that case, with the median trade cost reduction ($\Delta d = -0.117$) and average cost shares ($\bar{\beta}_i = .22$), one predicts an increase in TFP of $-(1 + \bar{\beta}_i) / (1 - \bar{\beta}_i) \Delta d \times 100 = 18.3\%$. Of this increase, about $1/6$ is due to improved access to intermediate inputs ($\bar{\beta}_i / (1 - \bar{\beta}_i) \Delta d \times 100$). This calculation also shows that, once prices are known, to a first-order approximation the changes in productivity—and, later on, in welfare—are proportional to the reductions in trade costs.

Figure 6(a) relates regional productivity gains to changes in trade costs. The policy

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51 Further discussion of the properties of this index is provided in Appendix G.

52 However, as shown in Figure L.9, even when using the new equilibrium prices, when productivity gains are large, equation (16) misses substantial gains due to factor reallocation across crops.
has large effects and the majority of regions experience productivity increases. The median region’s productivity increases by 16%, whereas a region in the 75th percentile sees its productivity increase by as much as 24%.\footnote{Note that these measurements will differ from those reported, for example, in Restuccia, Yang, and Zhu (2008). The FAO statistics used by them evaluate quantities across countries at a fixed set of prices.}

**Welfare of Farmers** While this policy tends to increase productivity, Figure 6(b) shows that, in terms of farmers’ welfare, this policy generates winners and losers. Consider the following first-order approximation to the change farmers’ welfare

\[
\Delta W_i = \sum_k \left( \frac{1}{1 - \bar{\beta}_i} \pi_{i,k} - \bar{b} s_{i,k} \right) \Delta p_{i,k} - \frac{\bar{\beta}_i}{1 - \bar{\beta}_i} \Delta \rho_i, \tag{17}
\]

where farming income accrues from land and labor used in agriculture. For region \(i\), an increase in the price of \(k\) will tend to improve welfare when the crop’s revenue share is large and the consumption share is small, as measured by the difference \((1 - \bar{\beta}_i)^{-1} \pi_{i,k} - \bar{b} s_{i,k}\). Not surprisingly, the policy benefits the poor the most: a log point decrease in baseline welfare is associated with a 3 p.p. larger welfare increase due to the policy.\footnote{See Figure L.5. Appendix L presents additional statistics about this counterfactual simulation: the distribution of price changes and land shares (Figure L.3) and the changes in the value of net exports by crops (Figure L.4).}

To better understand the sources of prices changes, consider Figure 5, which shows the counterfactual responses of prices and land shares. Note that prices decrease in most markets, which reflects the increase in the supply of food mentioned above. Next, note that a decrease in trade costs entails an increase in the efficiency of Home’s exchange with the rest of the world. In consequence, the country as a whole imports and exports more according to its comparative advantage. Consider first crops that are imported in the baseline equilibrium. Aggregate imports of wheat, yellow maize and rice (normalized by the gross value of agricultural output) increase by 0.8, 0.7 and 0.4 percentage points, as it becomes cheaper for inland regions to obtain them. Across regions, prices and land shares of these crops tend to decrease in tandem, consistent with a movement along regional supply schedules induced by lower import prices. Likewise, aggregate exports increase for avocado (4.3 p.p.) and coffee (1.2 p.p.), which are exported in the baseline equilibrium. For these crops, in turn, a few regions show a tendency for land shares to increase together with prices. But note that in many regions the land shares and prices of these export crops actually decrease together, reflecting the fact that regions where trade costs drop the most export more internationally as well as domestically.

Crucially, the policy creates also spatial dispersion on markets for crops that are traded
only domestically, most importantly potatoes, which account for about 23% of consumption. Equation (15) explains this adjustment as the net effect of two forces. The drop in the relative price of high-consumption imports, like wheat and yellow maize, puts a downward pressure on potato prices across the board (since $s_{i,k}$ is large for $k =$ wheat, maize and potato). For regions that export potatoes to urban centers, this acts like a further price shock that spreads to other crops. In contrast, the rise in the price of exports puts an upward pressure in potato markets, mostly in regions that also produce avocado (since there $\eta_{i,k}$ is large for $k =$ avocado and potato, and low for others).

Pulling together across crops, there is a 0.56 correlation between changes in prices and land shares, which confirms the importance and correlation of demand shocks across regions. Figure 5, however, also points out the large heterogeneity of the price adjustments, which underlies the heterogeneity of changes in welfare and productivity.

**Welfare of non-agriculture workers** A simple way of assessing the impact of the policy on net food buyers is to calculate the change in real non-farm income, $w_{i,M}/P^b_i$. Although the changes are relatively small, Figure 6(c) shows that net food buyers gain the least (and even lose), where the trade costs fall the most.

**Paving roads when labor is mobile within regions** To understand the implications of a certain degree of labor mobility across sectors, I study an environment where worker heterogeneity induces a positively sloping sectoral labor supply. I proceed in two steps. First, I compute a new baseline equilibrium in which workers can move freely between agriculture and non-agriculture, but not across regions. Second, I calculate the welfare effects of the policy relative to this new baseline. Doing so neutralizes the gains that accrue solely from allowing for worker mobility. Note, however, that these results are only an illustration of how the model works, since they imply counterfactual baseline labor allocations.

Figure 6(d) shows that changes in agricultural welfare are negatively related to changes in trade cost, opposite to when workers cannot move. To understand why, consider a region with a large underlying productivity advantage of non-manufacturing and high costs of trading with the rest of the country. In a baseline equilibrium with labor mobility, this region employs a large fraction of their workers in non-agriculture, and few as farmers. Wages reflect non-agriculture productivity and food is expensive to induce some workers to produce it. If this region becomes more integrated, the relative price of agricultural goods decreases in those

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55The Appendix explains the details of the calibration. Intuitively, I choose parameters such that the wages in each region are the same as in the baseline calibration – using the model in Lagakos and Waugh (2013) – and let labor allocations adjust.
regions, pulled closer to urban and international prices. The income lost by farmers then leads to a welfare decrease.

9 The Effect of an International Price Shock

I now study how a shock to international prices spreads throughout the domestic trade network. As a concrete example, I feed in an international price shock in line with the effect a Doha reforms scenario, according to World Bank’s simulations.\textsuperscript{56} The shock entails a mild increase in the price of cereals and cotton, and a small decrease in the price of fruit crops.

On average farmers benefit (0.24\% welfare gain), and non-farm workers lose (-0.04\% welfare loss). But this example also shows the importance of accounting for general equilibrium effects in transmitting foreign shocks to domestic prices. With knowledge of the changes in the equilibrium prices, the first-order approximation (17) turns out to be quite accurate since the shock is relatively small (see Figure L.9(b) in the Appendix.) Figure 7 compares these accurate predictions with those obtained by using the SOE assumption that international prices apply directly to every regional market. While the predictions are positively correlated, the SOE prediction gets the sign wrong about in 27\% of the regions.

Domestic trade costs insulate regions far away from ports from shocks to international prices. Thus, the price of rice, cotton, and maize increases as much as the international price only close to ports, and much less elsewhere (see Figures L.6 and L.7 in the Appendix.) In turn, these price shocks trigger displacements in the supply and demand of other crops (equation 15). For example, the negative international shock to the price of bananas is tempered in many regions as the supply of bananas shifts in due to the increased production of cotton, yellow maize and rice; this mitigates the negative income effect of a drop in the export prices. For other crops, like potatoes, prices increase almost everywhere, as consumers substitute away from cereals (recall that the consumption share of cereals and potatoes is high). This change in the price of potatoes benefits its producers, but hurts its consumers. Note that the change in potato prices, although large, is entirely indirect because potato is only traded domestically.

\textsuperscript{56}I obtain the simulated changes in world prices reported in Hertel and Ivanic (2006). For each crop, I average the import and export price changes for the World, relative to a bundle of rich country manufacturing exports (Tables 3.8 and 3.9 in Hertel and Ivanic (2006)). Then I classify the crops in my data according to their categories. The largest prices changes are for rice (7.7\%), wheat (1.6\%), other cereals (3.45\%) and plant fibers (5.9\%). I assume these price changes apply relative to the numeraire in my model.
10 Conclusion

The first message of this paper is that removing barriers to market access can have a positive effect on farmers’ productivity. Large-scale infrastructure shocks, however, can generate winners and losers if crops are substitutes in production and consumption, in spite of the possibility of land reallocation. Second, international shocks spread through regional markets and have spatially heterogeneous impacts. In response to either shock, welfare and productivity depend on specialization and price adjustments, both of which the model interprets through the lens of comparative advantage.

The framework I have presented can be used to answer other questions at the intersection of development and trade. For example, since Engel’s Law is a prominent feature in the data, augmenting the model with non-homothetic preferences can help shed light on how income inequality shapes the urban-rural exchange.

References


11 Tables and Figures

Table 1: The Spatial Dispersion of Unit Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Region dummies</th>
<th>Urban dummy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F statistic</td>
<td>R-sq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alfalfa</td>
<td>18.162</td>
<td>0.238</td>
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<td>asparagus</td>
<td>367.949</td>
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<td>barley grain</td>
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<td>cacao</td>
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<td>coffee</td>
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<td>dry bean</td>
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<td>grape</td>
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<tr>
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<td>maize (choclo)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>maize (yellow hard)</td>
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<td>onion</td>
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<td>orange</td>
<td>364.937</td>
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<td>wheat</td>
<td>231.343</td>
<td>0.663</td>
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Notes. Unit values are not available for crops that are not consumed directly by households. In that case, the corresponding row is empty.

Table 2: Distribution of Largest, Average and Median Land Shares across Regions

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<tr>
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<th>min</th>
<th>1st quartile</th>
<th>median</th>
<th>3rd quartile</th>
<th>max</th>
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<tr>
<td>largest share</td>
<td>0.205</td>
<td>0.317</td>
<td>0.404</td>
<td>0.538</td>
<td>1.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>average share</td>
<td>0.053</td>
<td>0.077</td>
<td>0.091</td>
<td>0.125</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallest share</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>1.000</td>
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Table 3: Estimates of the Transportation Model

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Constrained Model</th>
<th>Road Quality Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>log effective distance $\beta_{dist}$</td>
<td>0.356 (0.093)</td>
<td>0.482 (0.068)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high quality $\lambda_{hi}$</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low quality $\lambda_{lo}$</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>10.983 (3.964)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept $\beta_0$</td>
<td>0.208 (0.042)</td>
<td>-0.104 (0.155)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
<td>0.446</td>
<td>0.596</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses

Table 4: Summary Statistics of the Estimates of Iceberg Trade Costs, $\hat{d}_{ni,k}$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>mean</th>
<th>std</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>90%</th>
<th>max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iceberg</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1: Four Motivating Facts

(a) Coffee prices in space (in LCU)

(b) Coffee prices decline with distance to Lima

(c) Number of crops grown by region

(d) Average revenue per unit of land

(e) Roads and geography in Peru

Notes. Panels (a) and (b) use average prices, over 2008-2011. Blank regions indicate the coffee is not grown there. “Road distance” is calculated using the road network. Panel (e) Peru’s road system is divided in three levels: National, Departmental and Neighborhood roads (only the first two are plotted, to avoid clutter.)
Figure 2: Estimation of technology parameters

(a) Cost shares of land across crops $\gamma_k$

(b) Identification of inverse heterogeneity $\theta$

Figure 3: Trade Costs in Space

(a) Baseline iceberg trade cost to Lima

(b) Average reduction in iceberg trade costs (%)
Figure 4: Fitting Price and Land Allocation Data at the Baseline

(a) Farm-gate prices (crop means removed)  
(b) Land shares

Figure 5: Counterfactual Change in Prices and Land Shares: Roads paved
Figure 6: Counterfactual Change in Productivity and Welfare
(a) Agricultural productivity
(b) Agricultural welfare
(c) Non-agricultural welfare
(d) Agricultural welfare (mobile labor)

Figure 7: Welfare Change following an International Price Shock (Model and SOE approximation)