



Workshop on Impact Analysis Toolkit
8-9 May 2018
Beirut, Lebanon

Agenda

Day One: Tuesday 08 May 2018	
9:00-9:15	Registration
9:15-9:30	<p><u>Opening session: Context, objectives, and organization of the workshop</u> <i>Dr. Mohamed Chemingui, Chief Regional Integration Section, ESCWA</i> <i>Dr. Baghat Aboelnasr, Director of Arab Economic Integration Department, League of Arab States</i></p>
9:30 – 10:30	<p><u>Session 1: Modelling trade policies: Objectives and tools</u> <i>Chair: Dr. Mohamed Chemingui, UNESCWA</i> <i>Speaker: Pr. Chokri Thabet (University of Sousse, Tunisia)</i></p> <p>This session provides an overview of the main modelling approaches used in applied trade policy analysis. Three major modelling tools will be presented and discussed. The first approach is based on a partial equilibrium framework. The second approach is based on a computable general equilibrium (CGE) framework, which considers the economy as a whole taking into account the various interlinkages among output and primary factor markets. The third modelling approach is the gravity model based on econometric analysis of trade flows between two or more countries as a function of the country economic size, transportation costs, among other.</p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	<p><u>Session 2: How to use national CGE models and how to analyze their results: illustrative studies</u> <i>Chair: Dr. Clemens Breisinger, IFPRI</i> <i>Speaker: Pr. Chokri Thabet (University of Sousse, Tunisia)</i></p> <p>CGE modeling is by nature based on an <i>ex-ante</i> approach, which implies quantifying the future impacts of a given new policy. CGE models are computer simulation models that use data to explore the economic impact of changes in policy, technology and other factors. They show how different sectors inside one economy are linked and how several economies are connected to each other, and how resources such as labor and capital are best allocated across all economic activities. The purpose of this session is to present and discuss the major features of CGE models (national versus global and regional and dynamic versus static) and how they are used in trade policy analysis.</p>



	<i>Open Discussion</i>
12:00-13:00	<p><u>Session 3: Databases for trade oriented CGE calibration: social accounting matrix, input output tables, and elasticities</u> <i>Chair: Dr. Ahmed Moumi, UNESCWA</i> <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Pr. Chokri Thabet (University of Sousse, Tunisia): calibration of CGE models: SAMs and Elasticities</i> <i>Pr. Dr Mohamed Saadawi (INRAT Alger, Algeria): Building Input output tables</i></p> <p>Building a CGE model can be decomposed into three main steps that bring together three different skills of the modeler. The first step of model specification is mainly a theoretical work based on economic theory. The second step of model calibration consists of collecting and harmonizing the data, most often in the form of a social accounting matrix (SAM), and assigning values to the behavioral parameters. The last step deals with the resolution of the model, which means the mathematical transcription of the theoretical model in a programming language and the implementation of the scenarios are essentially of a computer nature. This session will covers two major steps in the calibration process: SAM and other parameters, and data requirements for building Input output tables.</p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-16:00	<p><u>Session 4: Experiences of IFPRI and UNESCWA in developing and using Simulations models</u> <i>Chair: Dr. Simon Mevel, UNECA</i> <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Dr. Clemens Breinsenger, IFPRI, IFPRI Simulations models and their applications in policy oriented advocacy: the case of AIDA project</i></p> <p>IFPRI is a pioneer and a leading institute in the CGE modelling, the core underlying methodology of the Arab Investment for Development Analyzer (AIDA). AIDA is a three year project (2017-2020) with focus on Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. Since 1980s, IFPRI CGE model has been applied in over 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The purpose of this session is to present the project and how CGE modelling will be used to respond to important policy questions including among others trade issues.</p> <p><i>Mr. Mohamed Chemingui and Ms. Nathalie Khaled, ESCWA's trade simulation models and user friendly interface</i></p>



	<p>ESCWA is increasingly using simulation models to provide technical assistance to its member states in ex-ante assessments of trade agreements under alternatives scenarios. The list of trade agreements under negotiations includes among others the ACU, the DCFTA, the accession to ECOWAS and COMESA, accession to WTO... The purpose of this session is to present the various tools used by ESCWA for trade policy analysis. It will end by a presentation on a user-friendly interface for CGE model, which allow non-modelers users to run simulations and extract results.</p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
Day Two, Wednesday 09 May 2018	
9:00-11:00	<p><u>Session 5: Introduction to key data inputs for global CGE modeling</u> <i>Chair: Pr. Chokri Thabet, University of Sousse</i> <i>Speaker: Dr. Simon Mevel (UNECA, Addis Ababa)</i></p> <p>Global CGE models require large amount of data. This session therefore introduces participants to the key data inputs for global CGE modeling. An overview of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) database –used as a global SAM for most global CGE models– is provided. Participants are also sensitized to the Market Access Map (MAcMap) database providing fine bilateral protection information critical for trade policy analysis; protection measurements and tariff aggregation methods are briefly reviewed.</p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	<p><u>Session 6: How to use Global CGE models and analyze the results: illustrative studies</u> <i>Chair: Mohamed Chemingui, UNESCWA, Beirut</i> <i>Speaker: Dr. Simon Mevel (UNECA, Addis Ababa)</i></p> <p>Without going into technical details, this session takes you rapidly through the key steps required to undertake a CGE modeling assessment. Based on recent studies, it then provides an illustration of the results obtained and how these can serve to guide policy decision.</p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	<p><u>Closing Session:</u> <i>Concluding remarks and distribution of certificates</i> <i>ESCWA and LAS</i></p>

