

Master thesis ideas, 2017 Christian Elleby

Supervisor key words:

- Commodity markets
- Agricultural and food policy
- Regulation of natural resources

Master thesis ideas:

- 1) **The trade impact of the Russian food import ban.** Russia banned imports of food products from the EU in response to EU sanctions against Russia following the Crimea annexation in 2014. What has been the impact on agricultural trade patterns in general and on DK exports in particular?
- 2) **Calculating welfare impacts of trade policy using a “New Quantitative Trade Model” (NQTM).** Welfare impacts of trade policies are typically evaluated with either simple partial equilibrium models or very complex applied general equilibrium models a la GTAP. So called “New Quantitative Trade Theory” (NQTT) based on the gravity equation is a more recent framework for evaluating trade liberalizations at a sectoral level. How do predicted impacts of various policy experiments based on the NQTM framework compare with those based on the GTAP model?
- 3) **Export competition between the EU and China in Africa.** African and Latin American countries are sourcing more and more of their imports from China so that the export share of from their old European colonizers is declining. Does this mean that Chinese goods have displaced European goods and in which sectors is the displacement effect largest?
- 4) **Impacts of major trade agreements; e.g. CETA, Brexit, EU-Japan.** Recently the European Parliament voted in favor of a trade agreement with Canada (CETA) and the EU is currently negotiating another trade agreement with Japan. There are also ongoing negotiations between the EU and the UK regarding the exit of UK from EU (Brexit). What are the consequences of these agreements?
- 5) **Analysis of quality and trade.** There are not many studies that look into the empirics of quality in trade. High quality goods are those with “high” trade prices typically proxied by unit values. Empirical questions of interest include: How has Denmark’s export of high quality goods developed over time? Which sectors are exporting mostly high quality goods? And what are the determinants of a country’s export and import quality composition?
- 6) **Competitiveness of organic cotton production in Sub-Saharan Africa.** In East Africa, cotton value chains experience low and even declining international competitiveness due to low margins and farmers’ limited access to credit and yield-increasing agrochemicals, while in West Africa the massive use of pesticides and agrochemicals has resulted in severe environmental and health problems. Organic cotton production can potentially solve both problems, as it strictly limits the use of agrochemicals and could increase incomes through access to premium prices. However, no in-depth and comparative evaluation of organic and conventional cotton farming has been conducted in SSA.