

Preface

This book is a collection of scientific papers on topics relevant to the research field of agricultural price volatility analysis. Contributions from this book were first developed as presentations at an international workshop organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) on “Methods to Analyse Price Volatility” held on 28–29 January 2010 in Seville, Spain.

Many conferences, publications, reports and workshops have focused on the dramatic commodity price increases from 2007 to mid-2008. These contributions have tried to identify the known and new factors driving agricultural commodity price changes such as the interdependence between energy and agricultural markets, the consequences of the development of biofuels, the linkage between the depreciation of the US dollar and agricultural commodity prices, the role of financial markets, and to discuss policy responses.

This book provides an overview of methodologies that can be implemented for improving the analysis and forecast of market developments. It discusses how current modelling tools used for policy analyses can be enhanced in order to integrate price dynamics. Finally it also highlights challenges faced by policy makers when dealing with the changing nature of agricultural commodities markets.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to this book either by writing a chapter or by discussing the presentations during the workshop.

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Seville, Spain

Isabelle Piot-Lepetit
Robert M'barek

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Piot-Lepetit, I.; M'Barek, R. (Eds.)

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