Impacts of international free trade agreements

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What's at
steak?
the real cost of meat
Impacts of the industrial livestock and feedstock industry on forests, climate change, farmers and communities
November 2016

WTO & Livestock:

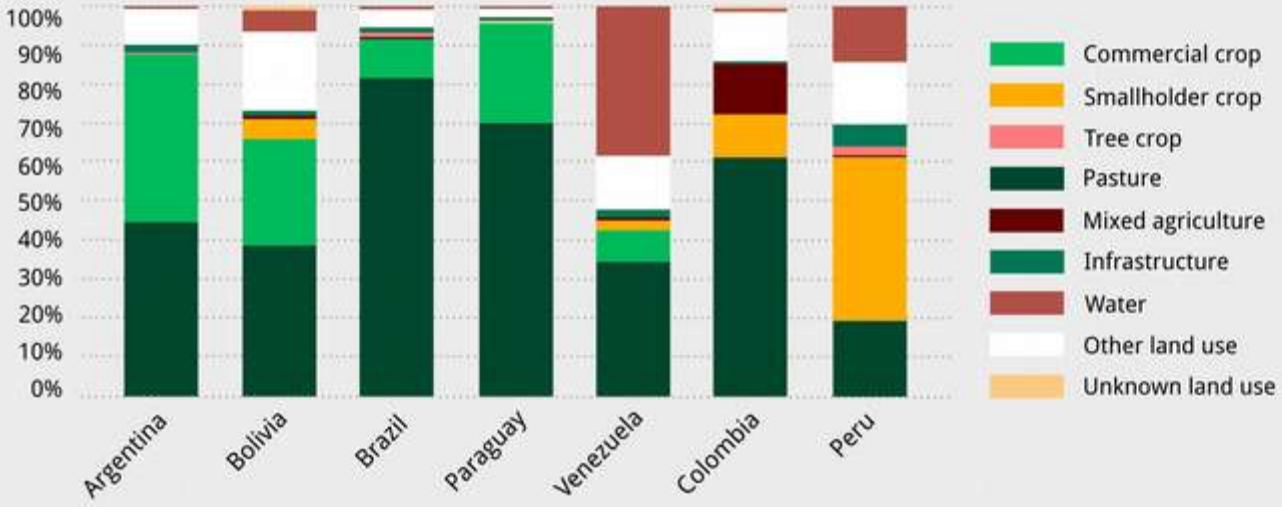
Starving small farmers, feeding large agribusinesses

Taking a closer look at the WTO and its free trade model, and how it negatively impacts on the livestock and feedstock industries production model

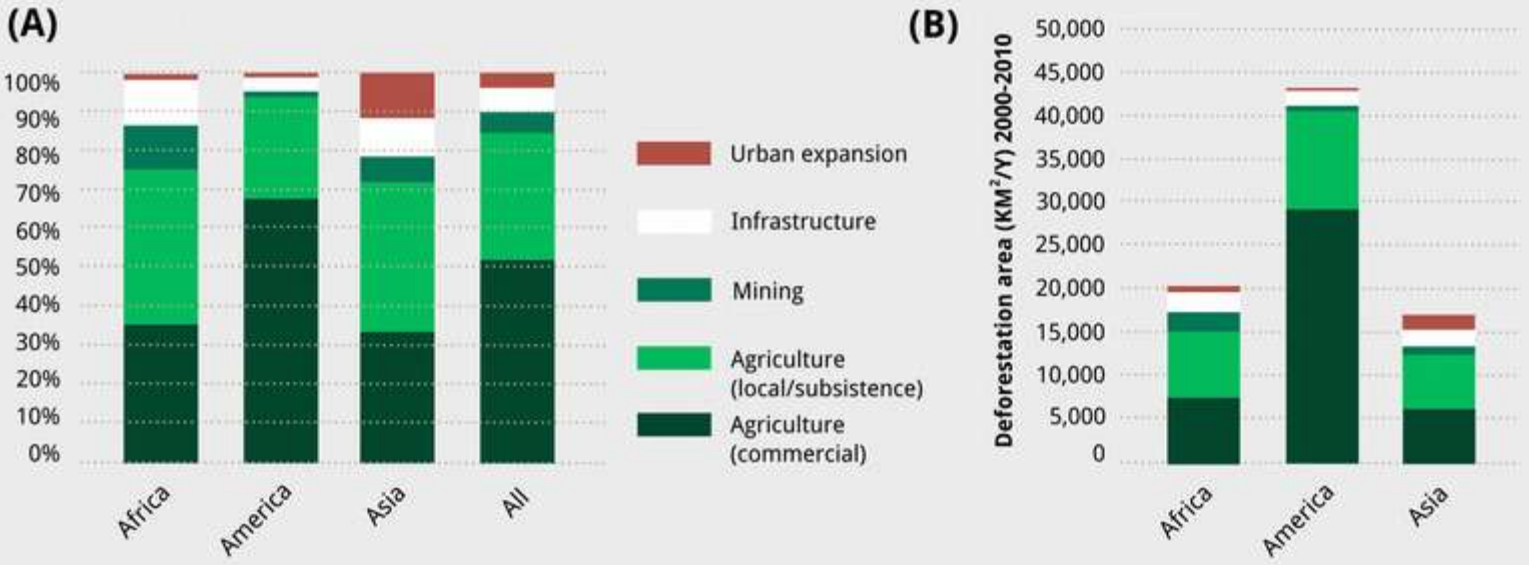
The whole of Mercosur
in exchange for a plate of beef

Briefing paper | by Mary Louise Malig

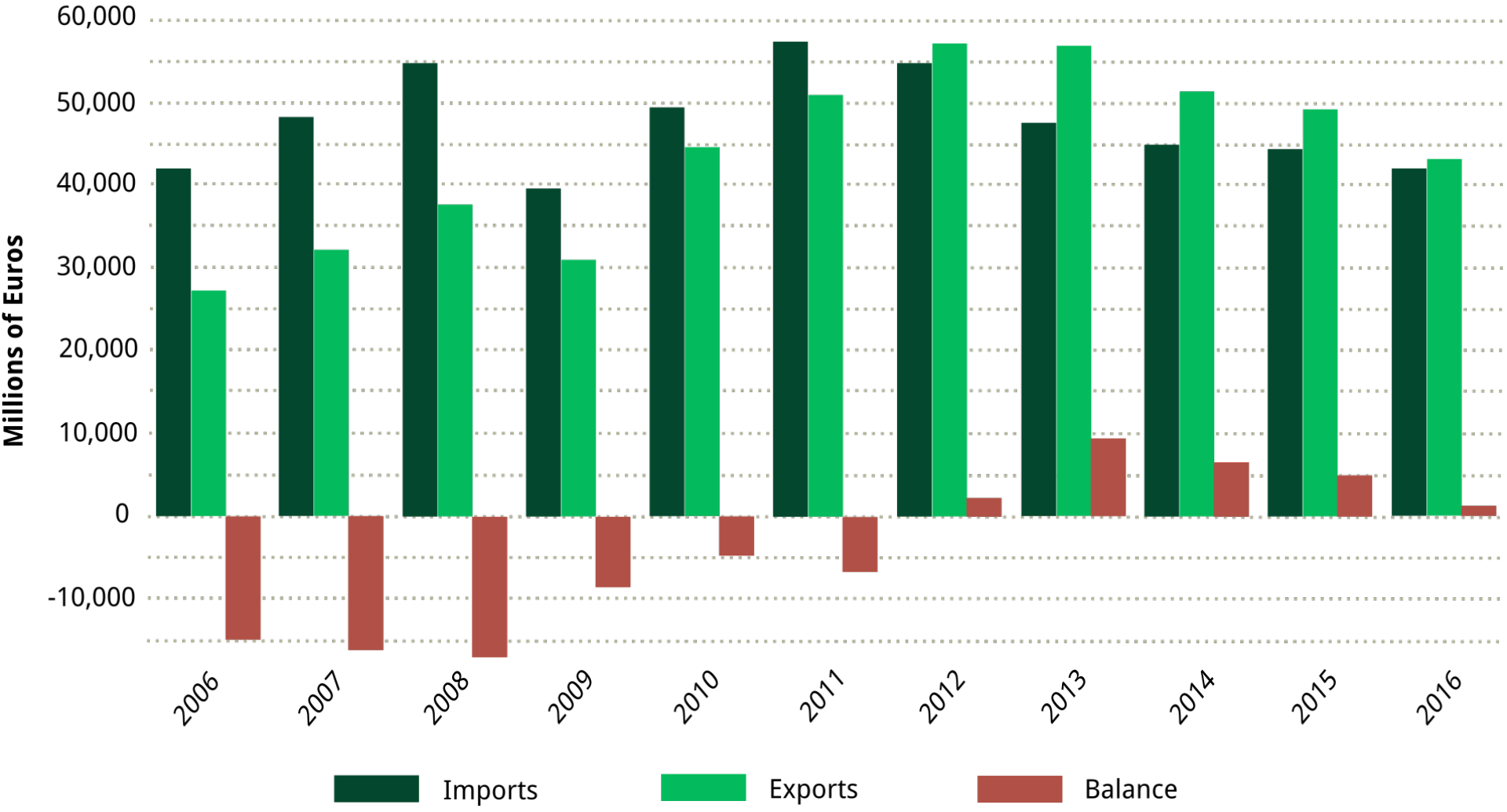
Proportion of deforestation attributed to various drivers in seven South American countries, 1990-2005



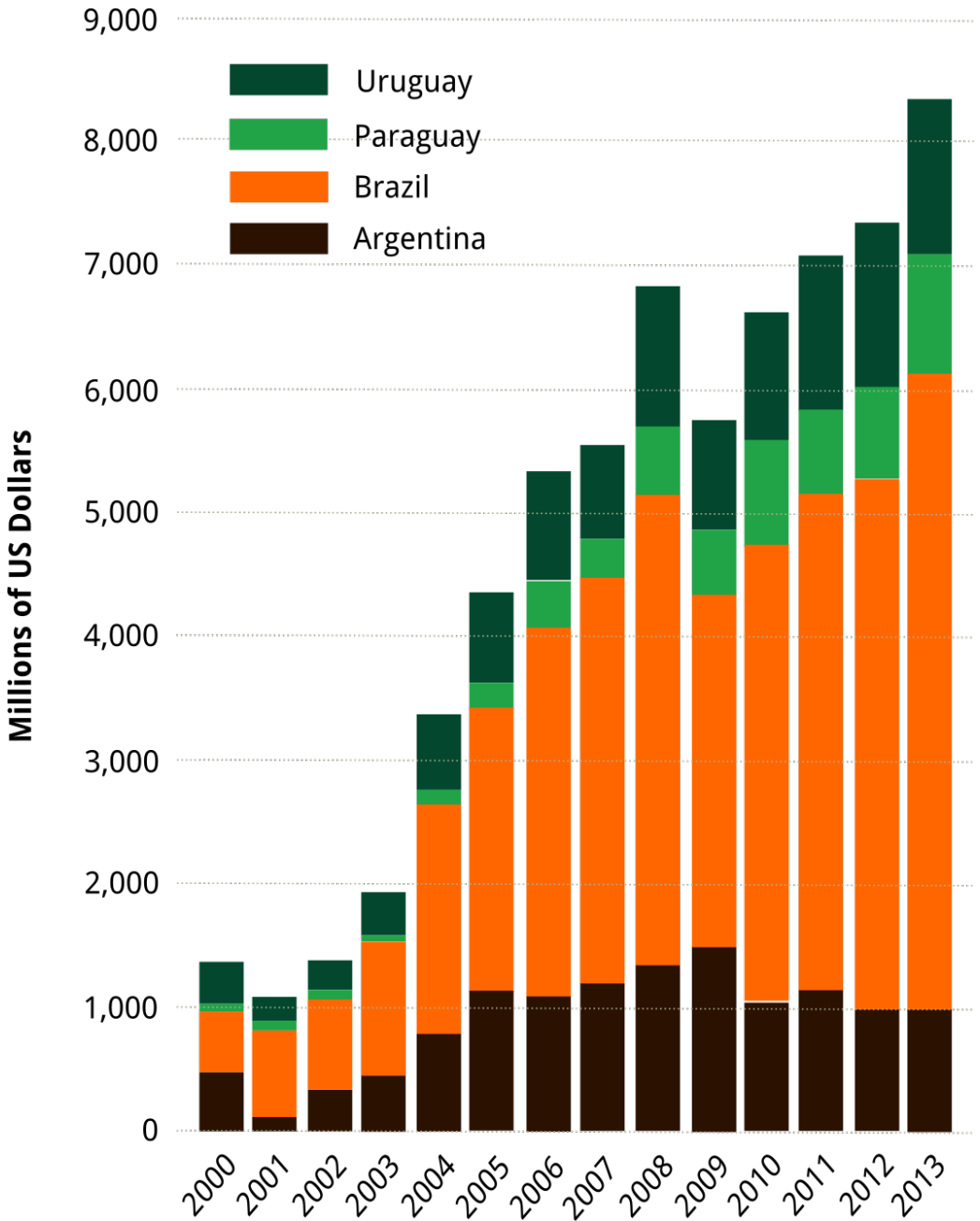
Estimate of (A) proportion of total area of land-use change associated with various proximate drivers of deforestation, and (B) absolute net forest area with change associated with proximate drivers of deforestation by region, 2000-2010



European Union trade with Mercosur: EU trade flows and balance

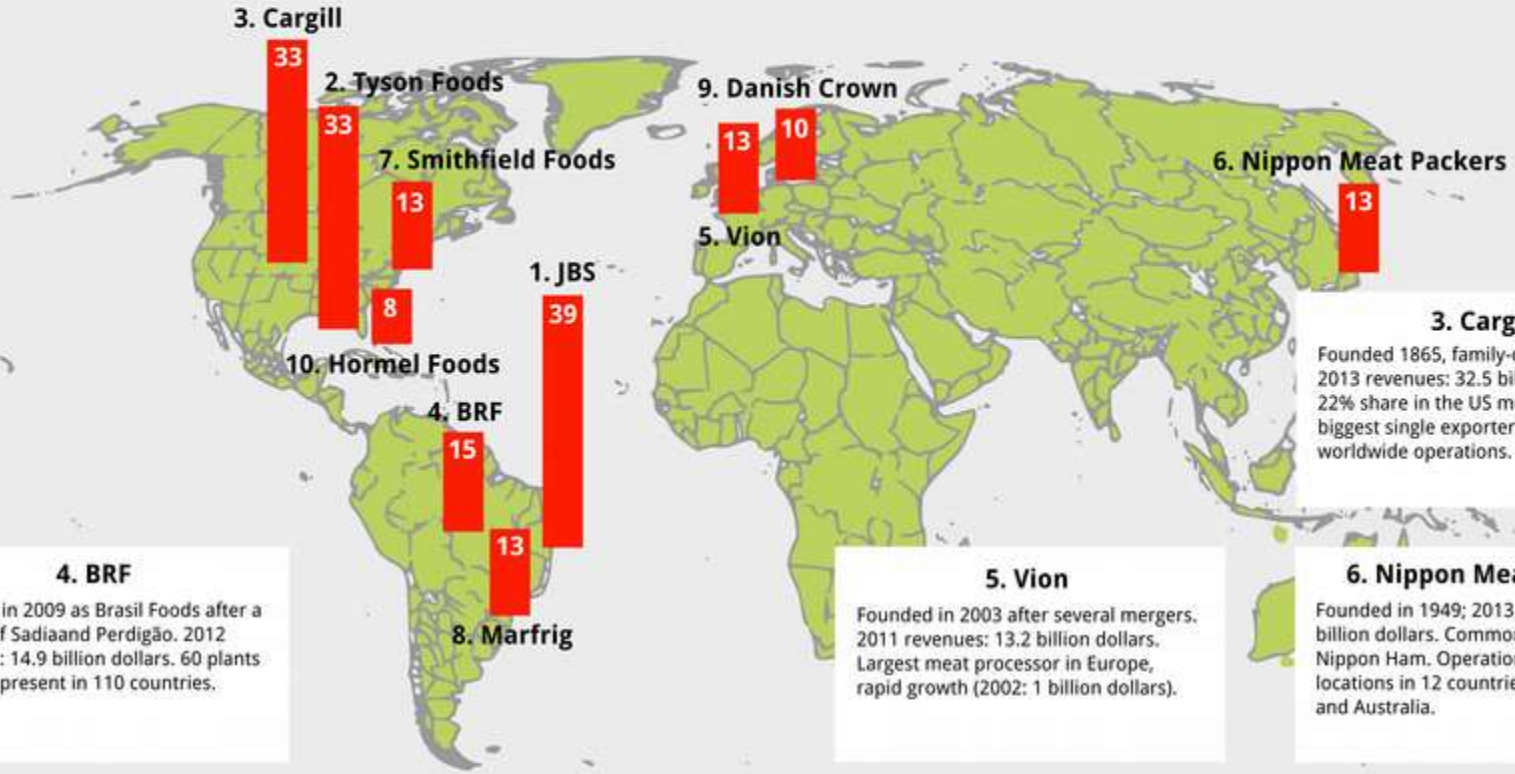


Meat exports from Mercosur countries



The Top Ten of the international meat industry

Companies by total food sales (2011-13), billion dollars



1. JBS

Founded in 1953; 2012 revenues 38.7 billion dollars. World's largest food processing company, leader in slaughter capacity. Recently acquired Smithfield Foods' beef business and Malfrig's poultry and pork units.

2. Tyson Foods

Founded in 1935; 2012 revenues: 33.3 billion dollars. World's largest meat producer and second-largest processor of chicken, beef and pork.

3. Cargill

Founded 1865, family-owned business. 2013 revenues: 32.5 billion dollars. 22% share in the US meat market, biggest single exporter in Argentina, worldwide operations.

4. BRF

Founded in 2009 as Brasil Foods after a merger of Sadiaand Perdigão. 2012 revenues: 14.9 billion dollars. 60 plants in Brazil, present in 110 countries.

5. Vion

Founded in 2003 after several mergers. 2011 revenues: 13.2 billion dollars. Largest meat processor in Europe, rapid growth (2002: 1 billion dollars).

6. Nippon Meat Packers

Founded in 1949; 2013 revenues: 12.8 billion dollars. Commonly known as Nippon Ham. Operations in 59 locations in 12 countries, mostly in Asia and Australia.

7. Smithfield Foods

Founded in 1936; 2012 revenues: 13.1 billion dollars. Largest pork producer and processor in the USA. Sold to Chinese Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd, with revenue of 6.2 billion dollars in 2013.

8. Marfrig

Founded in 2000 after several mergers. 2012 revenues: 12.8 billion dollars. Company units in 22 countries. World's fourth largest beef producer. In 2013, sold poultry and pork units to JBS.

9. Danish Crown AmbA.

Founded in 1998 after several mergers. 2012 revenues: 10.3 billion dollars. Major subsidiaries in USA, Poland and Sweden. Europe's largest meat producer, world's biggest pork exporter.

10. Hormel Foods

Founded in 1891; 2012 revenues: 8.2 billion dollars. 40 manufacturing and distribution facilities. Owner of "Spam", a precooked meat product; focusing on ethnic food.

F U E R A O M
300,000 INDIAN FARMERS FORCED INTO SUICIDE BY WTO POLICIES
WTO KILLS FARMERS!
WE WANT FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, NOT TRADE WAR ON FOOD BY WTO!
EU-US FARM SUBSIDIES
STOP YOUR WAR
SOBERANÍA!
PROFIT, AND WTO!
AGRICULTURE
OUT OF WTO!

Abolhassani tribal confederacy, participating in a CCRI project in Iran. CENESTA/GFC

let us not only reclaim our right to food but change the system

Global Forest Coalition