

Socioeconomics of Brazil's Mega Farms

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INTRODUCTION

Brazil sits in an ideal position regardless of the challenges it's presented with. The systems they have in place obviously work well, but with the rising population it is in everyone's best interest that their agricultural systems works at its best. So, with some additions and reforms, I believe Brazil has some great potential to feed the world and bring a stable economy back to its people. While overcoming the ethical dilemmas that come with larger businesses.

METHOD

I conducted this research while I was in Brazil June 10th thru August 11th of 2018. During the study I talked with three sets of people that help me expand my knowledge and public view on the big farms, Brazil's government, and the economy. The first group was a broad age group 25 to 65. These were typically scientist who had dealt with agriculture and the government for a long time by working in a Embrapa. The second group was aged 25 and under who were studying agriculture; most of these students worked for Embrapa as well. The third group, a smaller group, were farmers of big and small farms. This allowed me to collect a wide range of knowledge and examine bias from different demographics. If this were the initial study, I was performing in Brazil my preferred method would be to create a data chart that would separate participates into categories. First being age grouping. Next occupation or educational background. Then political viewpoints Ex: liberal, conservative, neutral. Finally, I would include financial position to try to eliminate any biased based on previous experience or knowledge that could influence the participants opinion of mega farms, government, or current economy.

During the study I examined different pricing variations between the US and Brazil in order to develop a sense of the different cost of living and economic position. To repeat or improve this study I would build a chart based on the categories I described earlier. Separating people by age, education, political stance, and financial status. I would then create a statistical study with a one to ten scaled questions. One being strongly opposed ten being strongly agree Ex: "mega farms hurt the local economy?" I would design the questions accordingly to find the common viewpoints of the people and see what action most people would support. To support the economical side of this study, I would show the pricing differences between the two countries in a chart.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Brazil has a couple of areas where other systems could be introduced. There is the issues with transporting crops, every harvest both the government and the farmers lose profit because they lack proper transportation methods. Building a railroad system in the country could help with a faster export. This could be financed with money that could be taxed from the mega farms who would benefit from better transportation. Mega farms may be upset over this but if they see this benefits them more in the end they may even support this tax. After the railroads have been built and implemented, revenue should come in with larger quantities due to a less expensive export. Revenues can than be put toward other economical improvements or social works like public transit.

The next issues that would need to be solved is the Electronics tax issue. Brazil focuses its tax on all electronics, imports or domestic, providing the more viable option of flying out of the country to buy the electronics. In this case Brazil is wasting key profits for the country. If they relieve the tax on the domestic products while keeping it on the imports this allows Brazil to start creating electronics of their own while having a direct market. People can still buy things out of the nation and return with them, but offering a cheaper option closer to home gives incentive to buy locally instead of from an outside market. Luxury items like these are important boosters for societies who wish to keep their funds local. Even though we typically don't associate electronic entertainment with agriculture, this example shows how local production and lower tax could improve local economy. Instead of the money gained from agriculture leaking out of the country as it is now.

These options provide new jobs in Brazil hopefully lowering wealth disparity and improving the overall economy. The most important part to the stabilization though, is the partnership between larger businesses like megafarms and the government. Mega farm exports help to feed our ever-growing population in a cheap effective way. The partnership between government and business allows the economy to balance. The more money they put into growing their business the more jobs there are and the more the wage gap begins to diminish. In this sense Brazil has great ability to improve not only its own country but it's profits as well, giving jobs to the people reducing unemployment and there by taking a step toward repairing its economy.

CONCLUSION

Brazil's economic situation isn't perfect, no country is. When it comes to their mega farms though, the debate between what's right and wrong reaches an ethical dilemma. Mega farms can be both damaging and helpful to an economy. The farms can both feed the world and destroy the rain forest. So, solid arguments can be made for both sides. When examining the socioeconomical impacts of these mega farms, many actions can be taken to break down these dilemmas and please both sides. If Brazil decided to promote these farms and use them as economic drivers, they could benefit from it. This is provided that Brazil works to ensure the money is routed back into the local economy, by changing laws and providing incentives that create more jobs. There are plenty of ethical concerns to overcome, so Brazil has a difficult stance to make but as they say "Viva Brazil."



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