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1                                    **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON THE URUGUAYAN RURAL SECTOR**

2  
3                                    **IMPACTO ECONÓMICO DEL CALENTAMIENTO GLOBAL SOBRE EL SECTOR RURAL EN EL URUGUAY**

4  
5                                    **Bruno Lanfranco<sup>1</sup> and Jorge Lozanoff<sup>2</sup>**

6  
7                                    **ABSTRACT**

8    This paper is part of a larger study about global warming impact that is being conducted simultaneously in  
9    seven South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay, and Venezuela,  
10   with the support of Yale University (USA), World Bank, PROCISUR, and PROCIANDINO. The  
11   objective of this regional project is assessing the economic effects of climate change over the agricultural  
12   sector and, more specifically, rural poverty. The results presented herein correspond to the partial study  
13   carried out in Uruguay. Because its reduced size and climate variation, a satisfactory empirical estimation  
14   had to be achieved using a broader sample, with similar agro-ecological areas, that included data from  
15   Argentina as well. Nevertheless, it seems possible to get some general conclusions for Uruguay through  
16   such procedure. The results of this study suggest that changes in average precipitation levels but  
17   particularly in temperatures during the Summer, should affect productivity and therefore land value. If, as  
18   expected, changes derive in warmer climate conditions, the effects would be highly negative for  
19   agricultural sector. Commercial farms are more sensitive to climate changes than non-commercial farms.  
20   Likely, the latter could adapt better to changing climate conditions.

21  
22   **Keywords:** climate change, Ricardian method, land productivity, land value

23   **JEL:** I3, Q5, Q54

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## RESUMEN

El presente trabajo forma parte de un amplio estudio sobre calentamiento global, llevado a cabo simultáneamente en seis países sudamericanos: Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay y Venezuela, con apoyo de la Universidad de Yale (USA), Banco Mundial, PROCISUR y PROCIANDINO. El objetivo es evaluar los efectos económicos de un cambio climático sobre el sector agropecuario y, más específicamente, sobre la pobreza rural. Debido a su reducido tamaño y escasa variación climática, para la escala regional en que se desarrolló el proyecto, el análisis parcial para Uruguay se realizó a partir de una muestra más amplia, con zonas agroecológicas similares, que incluyó los territorios de Uruguay y Argentina. Los resultados sugieren que eventuales cambios en los niveles medios de precipitaciones pero fundamentalmente de temperatura afectarán la productividad agropecuaria, medida a través del valor de la tierra. Si, como cabe suponer, los cambios derivan en temperaturas promedio más elevadas, sobretudo durante el verano, los efectos, aunque probablemente diferentes según el tipo de explotación, serán altamente negativos para el sector. Los predios comerciales parecen ser más sensibles a los cambios climáticos que los no comerciales. Los predios pequeños de producción familiar tendrían una mayor capacidad de adaptación frente a los cambios en las condiciones climáticas.

**Palabras clave:** cambio climático, método ricardiano, productividad de la tierra, valor de la tierra.

## INTRODUCTION

The results presented in this paper are part of a larger study about global warming impact conducted simultaneously in seven South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay, and Venezuela, with the support of Yale University (USA), World Bank, PROCISUR, and PROCIANDINO. The objective of the regional project entitled “Climate and Rural Property: Incorporating Climate into Rural Development Strategies” (SACRP from now on) is assessing the economic effects of climate change over the agricultural sector and, more specifically, rural poverty.

Data were collected in the seven countries through surveys, under a unique sampling protocol and using the same form. Aside from the analysis performed over the whole dataset by the SACRP project, a number of partial analyses, one per country, were conducted in order to understand the specifics of each country or even subregions within countries.

The results presented herein correspond to the partial study carried out in Uruguay. It attempts to bring some light over the potential economic effects of global warming on the Uruguayan agriculture sector

59 Because its both reduced size and climate variation, a satisfactory empirical estimation had to be achieved  
60 using a broader sample that included Argentinean data as well. Nevertheless, taking into consideration  
61 that the distribution of the Uruguayan observations, for most of the variables, fell close around the  
62 averages of the whole two-country sample, it seems possible to get some general conclusions for this  
63 country through such procedure.

64

## 65 **Theoretical Framework and Estimation Methods**

### 66 **Ricardian Model**

67 The Ricardian method finds its roots in the Ricardian concept of land rents. According to this, money  
68 value of farms would reflect the present value of future net productivity. Mendelsohn, Nordhaus and  
69 Shaw (1994) first investigated the economic impact of climate on U.S. land prices using this method.  
70 Since then, the use of this method has been debated (Cline, 1996; Darwin, 1999; Mendelsohn and  
71 Nordhaus, 1996, 1999a, 1999b; Quiggin and Horowitz, 1999) and a number of studies with empirical  
72 application have been referenced in the literature (Dinar *et al.*, 1998; Mendelsohn and Dinar, 1999;  
73 Mendelsohn *et al.*, 1999; Kumar and Parikh, 2001; Reinsborough, 2003). As a more recent antecedent,  
74 Seo, Mendelsohn, and Munasingue (2005) presented results of climate change impacts in Sri Lankan  
75 agriculture, using the Ricardian method.

76 A model with these characteristics can be stated as:

77

$$78 \quad P_{Land} = \alpha + \sum_{h=1}^H \beta_h F_h + \sum_{h=1}^H \delta_h F_h^2 + \sum_{j=1}^J \gamma_j Z_j + \sum_{k=1}^K \vartheta_k G_k + \varepsilon \quad (1)$$

79

80 The observations subscript is omitted for simplicity. The left-hand side of (1) is the dependent variable,  
81  $P_{Land}$ , measured in US dollars per hectare. In the right-hand side,  $F_h$  and  $F_h^2$  represent linear and quadratic  
82 climate variables: temperature and precipitation ( $H = 2$ );  $Z_j$  represent a set of soil description variables;  $G_k$   
83 is a set of socioeconomic and demographic variables that characterize the farm and its owner, including  
84 his/her family. There could be  $2 \times H + J + K + 1$  coefficients to be estimated, represented by  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta_h$ ,  $\delta_h$ ,  $\gamma_j$ ,  
85 and  $\vartheta_k$ ; the term  $\varepsilon$  represents the residuals, assumed to be IID(0,  $\sigma^2$ ).

86

87 The model was estimated by Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and corrections for heteroscedasticity were  
88 done when necessary, using a heteroscedasticity-consistent covariance matrix estimator (White, 1980).  
89 Price elasticity at the means was calculated with respect to changes in both temperature and precipitations  
90 to measure the marginal effects of the climate variables over land value.

91

92 
$$\xi = \frac{\partial P_{Land}}{\partial F_h} \times \frac{\bar{F}_h}{\bar{P}} = (\beta_h + 2 \times \delta_h \bar{F}_h) \times \frac{\bar{F}_h}{\bar{P}}.$$
 (2)

93

94 **Perception about climate change**

95 Respondents of the surveys were asked if they noticed any long-term shifts in climate, such as changes in  
 96 temperature or rainfall. Hence, farmers' perception about climate change can be captured through a model  
 97 that follows this general form:

98 
$$d^* = \mathbf{v}'\theta + u^*.$$
 (3)

99

100 The dependent variable  $d^*$  is a latent unobservable variable. Instead, what is observed is its realization  $d$ , a  
 101 binary variable, which takes the value  $d = 1$  (yes, climate change was perceived) when  $d^* > 0$  and  $d = 0$   
 102 ((climate change was not perceived) when  $d^* \leq 0$ . Socioeconomic characteristics of the farm, its owner,  
 103 and his or her family were used as independent variables, in order to identify if any of these traits were  
 104 able to explain, in part, this perception. Vector  $\mathbf{v}$  contains the independent variables presumed to affect  
 105 the decision. The model can be estimated by maximum likelihood, where  $u^*$  follows a logistic distribution.

106

107 **Projections of climate change impacts**

108 The potential impact of climate change (global warming) was assessed through the analysis of different  
 109 scenarios, each having some probability to occur, derived from climate models. In the first approach,  
 110 eight extreme possibilities were considered to visualize the effects of a potential climate change. The first  
 111 two scenarios considered an increase in the mean temperature (+2.5 and +5.0°C, respectively), *ceteris*  
 112 *paribus*. The next two scenarios considered changes in annual rainfall (+10% and -10%, respectively)  
 113 with temperature held constant. The last four scenarios considered combinations of warming and  
 114 precipitation change (+2.5°C with +10% PP; +5.0°C with +10% PP; +2.5°C with -10% PP; and +5.0°C  
 115 with -10% PP).

116

117 In the second approach, three different possible scenarios derived from three AOGCM models (CCC,  
 118 CCSR, and PCM) were taken to observe the evolution of these effects over three different time periods: 15  
 119 years (by year 2020), 55 years (by year 2060), and 95 years (by year 2100).

120

121 In all cases, climate change impact (*CCI*) is measured as the difference between land value in the future  
 122 scenario ( $P_{L1}$ ) and land value in the current scenario ( $P_{L0}$ ). The results may be presented in relative terms  
 123 (percentage) with respect to the initial situation:

124 
$$CCI = \% \Delta P_L = \frac{(P_{L1} - P_{L0})}{P_{L0}} \times 100. \quad (4)$$

125 **Data collection and sampling**

126 The lack of sufficient climate (temperature and precipitations) and geographic (soils and topography)  
127 variability when data from Uruguay is considered at the regional level prevents us from conducting  
128 empirical estimation using this dataset alone, even when the sample size is adequate in terms of degrees of  
129 freedom. For this reason, the analysis of global warming effects in Uruguay was performed through a  
130 wider sample that included the data from Argentina as well. A dummy variable named *codadm0* was used  
131 to identify the country (0 - Argentina; 1- Uruguay).

132  
133 The basic statistics calculated from the Uruguay subset showed that sampling distribution for this country  
134 falls in the middle ranges of the complete Argentina-Uruguay dataset distribution, at least for most  
135 variables. Thus, inferences from the results observed in a close range over the means in the whole sample  
136 might well represent the conditions for Uruguay.

137  
138 The complete date set used in this study comprised 577 observations, 175 of which correspond to farms  
139 surveyed in Uruguay; the remaining 402 observations represent Argentinean farms. The 175 farms  
140 surveyed in Uruguay were evenly distributed all over the country.

141  
142 Information reported in the surveys regard farm figures and facts (farm type, crops and livestock  
143 production, land values, revenues and costs, facilities, among others) as well as demographic and  
144 socioeconomic characteristics of farmer's household (education, age, gender, years farming, household  
145 size, among others). Questions about farmers' perceptions about climate change were also included in the  
146 questionnaire.

147  
148 Soil data at the district level, including texture and slope, were extracted from FAO digital soil map of the  
149 world CD-ROM (FAO, 1996) and used as control variables. Climate data came from two sources:  
150 temperature data originated from US Defense Department Satellites whereas precipitation data was taken  
151 from ground station interpolations by the World Meteorological Organization.

152  
153 **Description of the variables**

154 Four versions of the Ricardian model derived from the combination annual and seasonal climate data with  
155 type of farm, were included in this study.

- 156 • Model 1: Annual climate regression without discriminating the type of farm.

- 157 • Model 2: Seasonal climate regression without discriminating the type of farm.  
158 • Model 3: Annual climate regression identifying the type of farm (commercial and small).  
159 • Model 4: Seasonal climate regression identifying the type of farm (commercial and small).

160  
161 A number of variables were created for the specific estimation procedures performed in this research. The  
162 land value in US dollars per hectare (landval1ha) was used as dependent variable in all Ricardian  
163 regressions. A binary variable (climshift1) which accounts farmers' perception of long-term shifts in  
164 climate was used as dependent variable for the logistic model.

165  
166 The variables utilized in the different estimation procedures are defined in Table 1. Both temperature and  
167 precipitation were used as climate variables ( $F$ ), included in different ways: as annual averages and season  
168 averages (Winter and Summer). In addition, interactions of the two variables with the type of farm  
169 (commercial and non-commercial or small farm) were considered. In all cases, they were stated in both  
170 linear and quadratic form.

171  
172 Soil variables were constructed using the unit soils used by FAO (1996). A dummy variable identifies the  
173 presence of a specific dominant soil in the observation. Another binary variable (water\_src) indicating the  
174 source of the water used in the farm for crop and pasture production was included in the logistic model.

175  
176 All models also included different demographic and socioeconomic data as control variables, which  
177 characterize the farmer and her family (farm size, household size, years as farmers, age and sex, as well as  
178 education level of the household head, presence of electricity, telephone, and personal computer).  
179 However, not all the control variables were finally used on each estimation procedure.

180

## 181 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

182

### 183 **Basic statistics**

184 One hundred and seventy five observations out of 577 correspond to farms surveyed in Uruguay.  
185 Although only 5% of the respondents considered themselves as non-commercial farmers, a later analysis  
186 considering farm size and type of production allowed to categorize 36% of the farms as small farms, with  
187 an average size of 497 has. The remaining 64% were classified as medium and big commercial farms,  
188 with an average size of 818 has (Table 1).

189

190 **Table 1. Basic statistics of the Uruguayan farms' sample.**

191 Cuadro 1. Estadísticas básicas de los predios muestreados en Uruguay.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Commercial</b>
sizeha	Average size of the farm (has)	497	818
farmyears	Average years as farmer (sample mean)	17	22
age_head	Average age of the household (years)	51.4	51.2
female	Farms where the head is a female person	0%	6%
educ_head	Average level of education (years)	14	14
educ_head	Maximum level of education (years)	21	24
hhsiz	Average size of the household (#)	3.63	3.98
elect_dum	Farms with electricity (%)	37.5%	80,8%
tel_dum	Farms with telephone (%)	87.5%	90.4%
con_dum	Farms with personal computer (%)	12.5%	57.5%
landval1ha	Average value of land (US\$/ha)	490	928
landval2ha	Land value (includes buildings, livestock, equip.) (US\$/ha)	627	1,754
climshift1	Farmers who perceived climate changes (%)	63%	69%

192  
193 On average, commercial farmers have more years working as farmers (22 against 17) although their  
194 similar age (51 years). Only 6% of the commercial farms are managed by female persons, while none of  
195 the small farms has a woman as its head. In addition, the average education level was similar (14 years)  
196 which means that, in general, household head completed high school level. However, highest levels of  
197 education (postgraduate studies) were observed in commercial farms. The size of the household was  
198 slightly greater for commercial farms than for small farms.

199  
200 With regard to the available facilities in the farm, 37.5% of the small farmers have electricity. For  
201 commercial farms, this percentage rises to almost 81%. Although still higher for non-commercial farms,  
202 the proportion of farmer that have access to telephone does not show such a difference, being 87,5% for  
203 the former and 90.4% for the later. Finally, when asked for the use of personal computers in the farm, the  
204 proportion of positive responses was only 12.5% in the case of small and 57.5% in the case of commercial  
205 farms.

206  
207 Sample average land value, in US dollars per hectare, was \$490 for small farms and \$928 for commercial  
208 farms. This difference widens when buildings, livestock, and equipments, are considered in the land



209 value, reflecting the fact that commercial are more capital intensive than small non-commercial ones. In  
210 this case the value rises to \$627 (an increment of 30%) while achieving \$1,754, in the case of commercial  
211 farms (89% rise).

212

### 213 **Estimation of Ricardian model**

214 Due to the lack of space, only the results of the seasonal climate regression model (Model 4), identifying  
215 the type of farm (commercial and small) are presented in this paper. Nevertheless, for the purposes of this  
216 discussion, it is worthy to start with some comments about the results of the remaining models. The  
217 complete results are available from the authors upon request.

218

219 When climate data averages at the annual levels were considered, without discriminating between farms,  
220 both temperature and precipitation showed significant effects on land value. Both climate variables  
221 showed a positive but decreasing relationship with the land value level. Changes in annual mean daily  
222 temperature appear to have a stronger effect over land values than changes in the annual mean of monthly  
223 rainfall, according with the magnitudes of the coefficients.

224

225 When seasonal figures were considered (Model 2), both Summer and Winter temperatures, and Summer  
226 and Winter precipitations, still showed positive linear coefficients but negative quadratic coefficients.  
227 Again, the magnitudes of the temperature coefficients are greater than those for precipitation suggesting a  
228 stronger effect of temperature changes over land values compared to changes in rainfall levels. However,  
229 the critical season seems to be the Summer, especially when most likely future scenarios involve warming.  
230 Model 3 and Model 4 were estimated in order to discriminate the potential effects of climate changes over  
231 different type of farms. This is carried out through the interaction of temperature and precipitation  
232 variables and type of production entity, that is, commercial farms and small non-commercial farms. Thus,  
233 Model 3 resembles Model 1 (annual climate variables) with the difference that climate coefficients were  
234 estimated for each type of farm (commercial and small). On the other hand, Model 4 is similar to Model 2  
235 (seasonal climate variables) but, again, climate coefficients were estimated for each type of farm.

236

237 The results of Model 3 showed that climate effects over land values are similar when farm types are  
238 identified than when they are not. That is, both temperature and precipitation coefficients are positive in  
239 the linear terms and negative in the quadratic terms, for both commercial and small non-commercial  
240 farms. Again, temperature is the variable exhibiting the strongest effects on land value, regardless the  
241 type of farm.

242

243 **Table 2. Results of Ricardian regression, Model 4: aggregate annual regression i (small &**  
 244 **commercial).**  
 245 Cuadro 2. Resultados de la regresión ricardiana, Modelo 4: regresión con datos anuales agregados  
 246 (predios pequeños & comerciales).

Variable	Description	Estimate	Std. error	t Value	Pr >  t
Intercept	Intercept term	-4914.830	1376.370	-3.57	0.000 ***
codadm0	Country (1=Uruguay; 0=Argentina)	-1110.360	246.274	-4.51	0.000 ***
te_sumxd	Summer temperature(°C) × CF	614.420	157.444	3.90	0.000 ***
te_sum2xd	Squared Summer temp.(°C) × CF	-23.973	5.325	-4.50	0.000 ***
pr_sumxd	Summer precipitation (mm) × CF	19.936	8.721	2.29	0.023 **
pr_sum2xd	Squared Summer precip. (mm) × CF	-0.114	0.051	-2.24	0.026 **
te_winxd	Winter temperature(°C) × CF	514.723	177.515	2.90	0.004 ***
te_win2xd	Squared Winter temp.(°C) × CF	-18.051	7.005	-2.58	0.010 **
pr_winxd	Winter precipitation (mm) × CF	-3.847	4.581	-0.84	0.402
pr_win2xd	Squared Winter precip. (mm) × CF	-0.013	0.015	-0.88	0.377
te_sumxs	Summer temperature(°C) × NCF	461.886	162.449	2.84	0.005 ***
te_sum2xs	Squared Summer temp.(°C) × NCF	-12.257	4.637	-2.64	0.009 ***
pr_sumxs	Summer precipitation (mm) × NCF	27.228	4.447	6.12	0.000 ***
pr_sum2xs	Squared Summer precip. (mm) × NC	-0.118	0.022	-5.31	0.000 ***
te_winxs	Winter temperature(°C) × NC	7.141	98.681	0.07	0.942
te_win2xs	Squared Winter temp.(°C) × NC	-4.802	3.981	-1.21	0.228
pr_winxs	Winter precipitation (mm) × NC	9.909	2.282	4.34	0.000 ***
pr_win2xs	Squared Winter precip. (mm) × NC	-0.044	0.009	-4.78	0.000 ***
popdens	Population density	18.383	7.620	2.41	0.016 **
popdens2	Squared population density	-0.007	0.003	-2.32	0.021 **
tel_dum	Electricity (1=Yes; 0=No)	373.873	88.569	4.22	0.000 ***
fhpct	Humic Ferralsols (1=Yes; 0=No)	-6.442	1.375	-4.68	0.000 ***
hlpct	Luvic Phaeozems (1=Yes; 0=No)	-7.874	1.966	-4.00	0.000 ***
smpct	Mollic Solonetz (1=Yes; 0=No)	-15.714	4.518	-3.48	0.001 ***

247 Note: Asterisks denote t statistic significance at level: \* 10%; \*\* 5%; \*\*\* 1%. CM indicates commercial farm  
 248 whereas NC indicates small non-commercial farms.  
 249

250 When the effects of the extreme seasons (Winter and Summer) over both types of farms are considered, as  
 251 in Model 4 the overall results were similar. However, it is observed in Table 2 that all estimated  
 252 coefficients were statistically significant except those for the interaction of Winter temperature with small  
 253 farms and Winter precipitations with commercial farms. In these cases, neither the linear nor the quadratic  
 254 coefficients were different from zero at any significance level. Thus, specific conclusions for each farm  
 255 type should be drawn with this regard.

256  
 257 Marginal effects of both temperature and precipitation (annual and seasonal) are presented in Table 3.  
 258 The land value elasticity with respect to climate variables, for all farms and for each type of production,  
 259 commercial and small non-commercial, was computed at the means, as stated in equation (2). As noted,  
 260 the marginal effects of Winter temperature for small farms, and Winter precipitation for commercial farms  
 261 and for all farms considered together are not presented, since they were computed from statistically  
 262 insignificant coefficients.

263  
 264 In any case, it should be noted that marginal effects are not constant over the range of temperatures and  
 265 precipitations, due to non-linear effects of these variables. This is illustrated in Figure 1 for temperature  
 266 and Figure 2 for precipitation. It can be observed that land value curves for temperature are more concave  
 267 (steep) than those for precipitation, showing that the magnitudes of the elasticities are indeed higher.

268

269 **Table 3. Elasticities at the mean of land value with respect to climate variables by type of farm.**

270 Cuadro 3. Elasticidades en la media del valor de la tierra con respecto a las variables climáticas,  
 271 por tipo de predio.

Farm Type	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Summer	Winter	Annual	Summer	Winter	Annual
Commercial	-10.8688	0.9590	-4.0439	-0.6082	n/s	-0.2517
Small	-2.2519	n/s	-3.7846	0.0771	0.1831	0.1395
All Farms	-7.5811	0.0006	-4.2542	-0.4464	n/s	-0.0571

272 n/s: computed elasticity from non-significant estimated coefficients.

273  
 274 The first conclusion drawn from the appraisal of the marginal effects is that the strongest effect comes  
 275 from potential changes in average daily temperature, particularly Summer temperatures, regardless the  
 276 type or farm. For instance, a 10% increase in annual mean temperature would derive in a reduction of  
 277 land productivity, measured through land value, of more than 40%, ceteris paribus. If this increment  
 278 occurs on Summer temperatures, the downfall in land value is likely to account by more that 75% of its

279 current value. If the increment is observed over Winter temperatures, ceteris paribus, negligible effects  
280 should be expected.

281  
282 Second, although all types of farms might be severely affected by warmer Summers, commercial farms  
283 will probably suffer more negative effects, compared to small non-commercial ones. The estimated  
284 potential prejudice from a 10% increase in average Summer temperature could be as big as 100% decrease  
285 in land value. In other words, land productivity would be expected to be reduced to half its current value.  
286 In the case of small farms, this reduction should amount 20%. Warmer Winter seasons could have some  
287 benefits for commercial farms.

288

### 289 **Perception of climate change and adaptation**

290 Table 4 presents the results of the Logit regression model stated in expression (3), which permits a first  
291 characterization of those farmers who perceived the occurrence of climate change. Looking at the signs of  
292 the estimated coefficients, it is suggested, first, that Argentinean farmers perceived climate change more  
293 often than Uruguayan farmers. It is hypothesized that the explanation recalls on the fact that Argentina is  
294 a number of times bigger in size and also presents wide climate variations than Uruguay; thus, although  
295 climate factors are always a concern in agriculture farmers could be somewhat more sensible to these  
296 factors, in terms of constraints to production, in some areas of the former than in the latter.

297

### 298 **Table 4. Results of Logit regression: Perception about occurrence of climate change.**

299 Cuadro 4. Resultados de la regresión logística: Percepción acerca de la ocurrencia de cambio  
300 climático.

Variable	Estimate	St. error	t value	Pr >  t	Pr(d = 1)
Intercept	0.92401	0.16163	5.71691	0.000 ***	0.21053
codadm0	-0.56385	0.14551	-3.87501	0.000 ***	-0.12847
water_src	-0.33138	0.14926	-2.22011	0.026 **	-0.07550
farmyears	0.01095	0.00510	2.14562	0.032 **	0.00250
landval1ha	0.00021	0.00008	2.68514	0.007 ***	0.00005

301

302 Second, farmers whose main source of water was other than rainfall showed a higher perception of climate  
303 changes than farmers that depend mainly from rainfall. It may be possible that farmers who use irrigation  
304 as their main source for crops and livestock are more concerned with climate factors.

305

306 Third, respondents with more years as farmers tended to perceive climate changes more often than those  
307 with fewer years. Farmers with more years working in the farm have a wider range of years to make the  
308 comparison and therefore are more likely to have perceived any potential change in climate variables,  
309 such as temperature and rainfall.

310

311 Fourth, farmers located in more productive fields, in terms of land values, perceived the occurrence of  
312 climate changes more often than occupants of cheaper lands.

313

314 However, nothing further can be said from the magnitudes of the estimated coefficients alone. So, last  
315 column shows the marginal contribution of each independent variable to the probability that a given  
316 farmer would have perception about long-term climate changes. According to the results, for instance, if  
317 the respondent to this question is an Argentinean farmer instead of Uruguayan, the probability of a  
318 positive answer will increase in 13%, *ceteris paribus*.

319

320 On the other hand, if the main source of water of the farm surveyed is rainfall, the probability that the  
321 respondent will report that perceived long-term climate changes will diminish in 7,5% if compared to a  
322 farm that uses irrigation as its main source, all other things equal. In the same sense, one additional year  
323 as a farmer would increase the probability of a positive answer in 0.25 %.

324

325 Finally, each increase by a hundred dollars per hectare in the value of the land will derive in an increase in  
326 the probability that the owner perceives long-term climate change by 0.5%.

327

### 328 **Future scenarios of climate change**

329 Climate conditions in Uruguay can be defined as moderate. Mean temperatures for all the country reach  
330 17.5°C, with a maximum isotherm of 19.0°C over the Northwestern region of the country and a minimum  
331 of 16.0°C over the Atlantic coast, in the Southeast. Annual accumulated precipitations average 1,300 mm,  
332 with a maximum isohyets of 1,600 mm in the Northern region and a minimum of 1,100 mm in the coast of  
333 the Río de la Plata (DNM, 2006) in the South.

334

335 The effects of the eight climate change scenarios in Uruguay are presented in terms of percentage change  
336 of land value estimated with equation (4). Due to lack of space, the details of calculations were omitted  
337 but are available from the authors upon request. Results were tabulated, with the scenarios as row headers  
338 and type of production entity as columns headers, in [Table 5](#).

339 **Table 5. Global warming effects under different scenarios.**

340 Cuadro 5. Efectos del calentamiento global bajo diferentes escenarios

Scenarios of climate change (Warming)	%Δ on Land value by Type of farm	
	Commercial	Small non-commercial
+ 2.5 °C Δ in Temperature	- 72.43 %	- 103.11 %
+ 5.0 °C Δ in Temperature	- 171.93 %	- 247.52 %
+ 10 % Δ in Precipitation	- 4.98 %	0.16 %
- 10 % Δ in Precipitation	0.12 %	- 4.06 %
+ 2.5 °C Δ in Temp. & + 10 % Δ in Precipitation	- 77.41 %	- 102.94 %
+ 5.0 °C Δ in Temp. & + 10 % Δ in Precipitation	- 72.31 %	- 107.17 %
+ 2.5 °C Δ in Temp. & - 10 % Δ in Precipitation	- 176.91 %	- 247.35 %
+ 5.0 °C Δ in Temp. & - 10 % Δ in Precipitation	- 171.81 %	- 251.58 %

341  
342 The first two scenarios consider increments in temperature (+2.5°C and +5.0°C). The effects of a warmer  
343 climate are prejudicial for both commercial and small farms, and it was shown that commercial farms in  
344 the sample were more sensitive (elastic) to temperature changes. However, since mean land values of  
345 non-commercial farms were smaller than commercial, downfalls in land values are relatively more  
346 important for the former than for the latter.

347  
348 In comparison, the effects of potential changes in the average monthly precipitation levels are expected to  
349 be mild, if occurred alone. The direction of the effects depend on the starting rainfall levels where a  
350 particular farm is located, as observed in the scenarios three and four, which consider only changes in  
351 precipitation levels.

352  
353 The occurrence of scenarios combining warming with changes in rainfall is presented in the last four rows  
354 of the table. Regardless of the farm type, increments of precipitation levels in the order of, say 10%,  
355 become important in muffling the negative effects on land values when considering rises in temperature of  
356 more than 2.5°C above current means. On the opposite, if precipitation levels fall in the same proportion,  
357 then an increment in average temperatures of 2.5°C should be as negative as an increment of 5°C.

358  
359 As explained before, although the estimated magnitudes of land value elasticities with respect to  
360 temperature and precipitation are smaller for non-commercial farms than for commercial farms, a specific

361 downfall that is similar in value will represent a larger proportion of the value for the former than for the  
362 latter.

363  
364 Nevertheless, the scenarios discussed above represent extreme situations, not very likely to occur in the  
365 coming century. Thus, under the SACRP project framework, three scenarios from Atmosphere Ocean  
366 General Circulation Models (AOGCM) were evaluated: Canadian Climate Center (CCC), Center for  
367 Climate System Research (CCSR), and Parallel Climate Model (PCM). Three time periods (2020, 2060,  
368 2100) were considered in terms of their economic impact on the agricultural sector. The results are  
369 reported in [Table 6](#).

370

371 **Table 6. Global warming effects for three different AOGCM models.**

372 Cuadro 6. Efectos del cambio global para tres diferentes modelos AOGCM.

AOGCM Models	Commercial			Small Non-Commercial		
	2020	2060	2100	2020	2060	2100
CCC	61.59%	7.85%	-104.63%	54.05%	0.35%	-111.92%
CCSR	79.27%	51.62%	33.48%	82.28%	48.01%	14.99%
PCM	85.45%	70.71%	46.30%	83.62%	62.62%	27.62%

373  
374 The CCC model represents the worst case scenario. In the case of Uruguay, it represents an increment of  
375 one degree Celsius in the next 15 years, with respect to current mean temperature. By year 2020, annual  
376 mean temperature is expected to average 18.6°C. According to this model, it is expected a mean  
377 temperature of 19.6 °C by 2060 and 21°C by 2100. Summer daily temperatures, currently averaging about  
378 22°C for Uruguay, would rise to an average of 25°C, 26.1°C and 27.3°C, respectively, whereas Winter  
379 daily temperatures, currently around 12.0°C, would reach 12.9°C, 13.5°C and 15.5°C in the same periods.  
380 Currently, average monthly accumulated precipitation is in the order of 100 mm. The CCC model  
381 forecasts an increase in rainfall levels to 112 mm by 2020, 131 mm by 2060, and 157 mm by 2100.

382  
383 The mildest scenario, in terms of temperatures, is represented by the PCM model. The increments in  
384 temperature will position the annual values of daily temperature at 17.9°C by 2020, 18.4°C by 2060, and  
385 19.3°C by 2100. These magnitudes are similar to those projected by the CCSR model (17.9°C, 18.7°C,  
386 and 19.5°C, respectively). The main difference is that the latter estimates higher temperatures during the  
387 Summer than the former. Daily temperatures during this season are expected to average 23.7°C by 2020,  
388 24.3°C by 2060, and 25.1°C by 2100, for the CCSR model. In contrast, PCM consider average  
389 temperatures of 21.5°C, 22.2°C, and 22.6°C, respectively, during the Summer. With respect of Winter

390 temperatures, the magnitudes projected by the CCSR model for the same periods are 11.8°C, 13.2°C, and  
391 14.0°C, whereas for the PCM model the average magnitudes are 14.1°C, 14.5°C, and 15.5°C, respectively.  
392 The results obtained in this study suggest that the global warming forecasted by all the AOGCM is  
393 expected to affect negatively the agricultural sectors in Uruguay and Argentina. Land productivity,  
394 measured as land value in US dollars per hectare would decrease up to 62% of its current value, for  
395 commercial farms, and up to 54% in the case of small non-commercial farms in the next 15 years. Even  
396 for the best scenario considered in this study it is expected that land values may diminish by 15% of  
397 current values.

398

399

### **Conclusions and principal remarks**

400

401 The obtained results suggest that changes in both temperature and precipitation might severely affect  
402 productivity and therefore land value. The effects would probably be different according to the type of  
403 production entity. Although the magnitudes would be different in the presence of different possible future  
404 scenarios, the effects are expected to derive in net losses for producers. According to the results obtained  
405 in this research, commercial farms appear to be more sensitive to climate changes; this suggests that small  
406 non-commercial farmers could adapt better to changing climate conditions.

407

408 This is the first study carried out for the Atlantic Southern region of South America and conclusions  
409 should be managed with caution. Using current land values for different climate zones to forecast the  
410 magnitude of potential land value changes due to climate shifts is probably a good approach to understand  
411 this problem. However, these models may not capture all the complexity of each ecosystem and, for  
412 instance, its ability to react and adapt to the changing conditions, absorbing at some degree the negative  
413 effects. More research is needed in order to countersign and give more confidence to these results.

414

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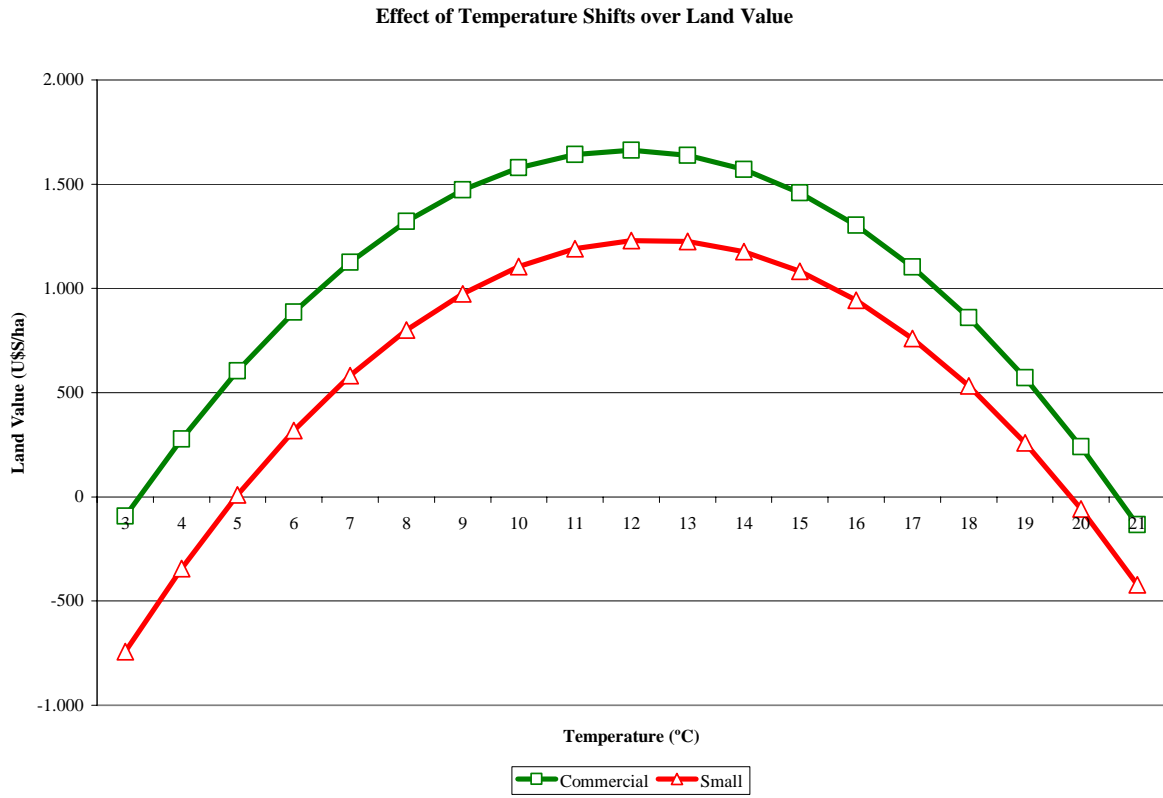
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466 **Figure 1. Effect of temperature shifts over land value.**

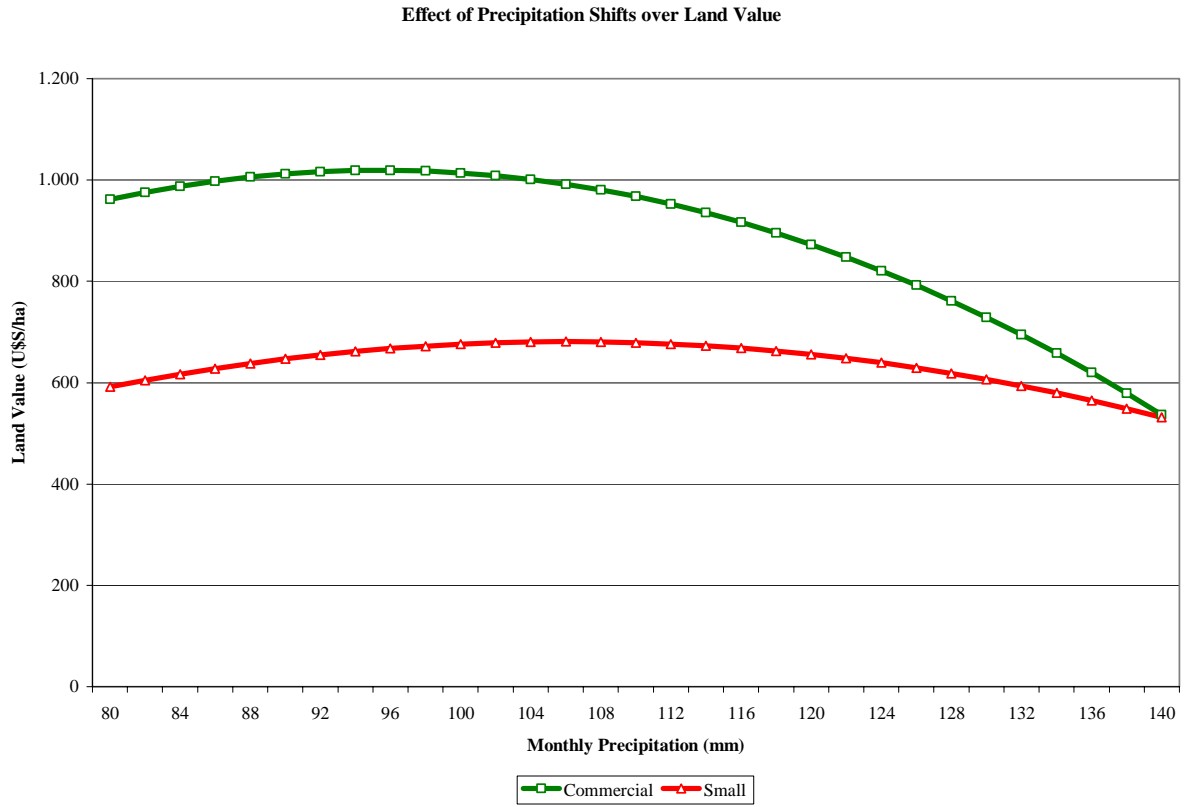
467 **Figura 1. Efecto de los cambios de temperatura sobre el valor de la tierra.**

468



469

470 **Figure 2. Effect of precipitation shifts over land value.**  
 471 **Figura 2. Efecto de los cambios en el nivel de las precipitaciones sobre el valor de la tierra.**  
 472



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