

Foreword

The global marketplace has a longstanding and well-established role in the agribusiness economy. Today, amid growing populations and rising incomes, international relationships have taken on even greater prominence. Meanwhile, the scope of trade has expanded. It is not only farm products that move between nations, but also capital and labor that now cross international borders, creating an increasingly global agricultural dynamic.

Over the summer months, the world saw the emergence of some uncertainty among significant agricultural trading partners. These developments pushed the prices of several major agricultural commodities sharply lower, affecting global food prices and also potentially raising questions about economic growth and the future prospects for the movement of capital and labor in an international context.

On July 17 and 18, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City hosted a symposium, “Agriculture in a Global Economy,” to explore the ways in which agriculture is positioned as a global industry and the implications of this global connectedness in the years ahead. The articles in this issue are from this symposium, and it is my hope that the insights they provide will help inform business and policy decisions made in the context of our global agricultural economy.



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