

Can migrants form the next generation?

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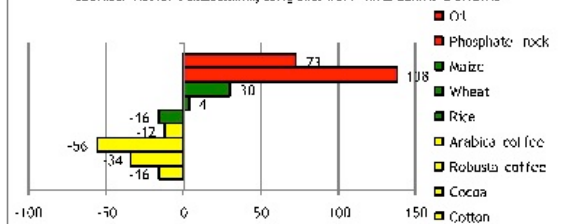
Oxford Real Farming Conference
January 6th, 2016

A worldwide crisis of farm incomes

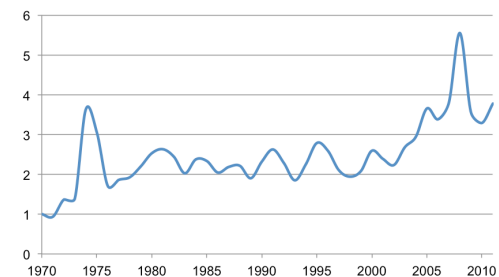
- Farming populations are growing older
- In country after country – Kenya, Nigeria, China, France, the U.K... – one hears of an ageing agricultural population and the refusal of young people to stay on farms.
- Even in South Korea, where agricultural subsidies are some of the highest in the world.

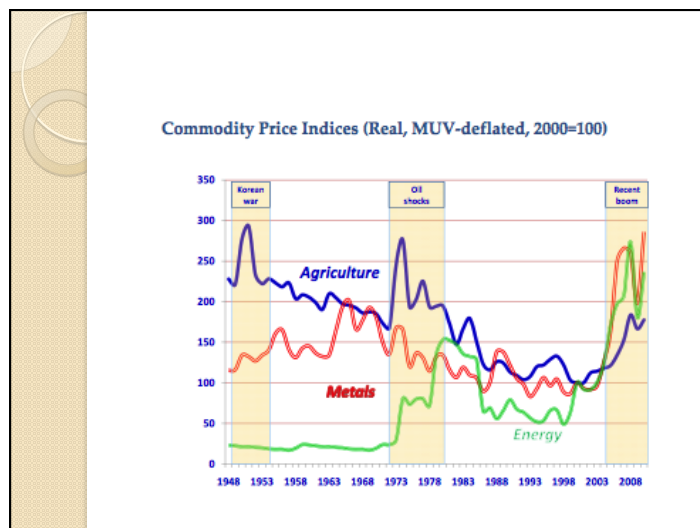
Percentage changes in real average commodity prices
1979-81 to 2010-12

Sources: Author's calculations, using data from World Bank and UNCTAD



Fertilizer Price Index / Food Price Index
Ratio 1970 = 1





The real agricultural crisis

- 2007-11 was a crisis of *industrial* agriculture, not agriculture in general
- It demonstrated that it is economically as well as ecologically unsustainable
- Agriculture (including agricultural labour) is at the wrong end of buyer-led commercial supply chains

'Agricultural economics'

Externalities
v.
External Inputs

Principles of economic organisation

There are three alternative principles:

1. Democracy, seen in the decentralised rule of the commons, mutual societies, clubs and co-operatives, and public services under democratic rule;
2. Authority: the top-down administrative model typical of the state and the corporation;
3. Exchange: where power is mediated by money and markets.