

## April 2023 Newsletter

Hello Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! This month's features are:

- The Market Corner article Why is Trade Freedom Important? by C-FARE Board Member, Luis Ribera
- New Direction features articles and papers titled:
  - [The economics of malnutrition: Dietary transition and food system transformation](#)
  - [GSS & C-FARE 2023 Policy Communications Competition](#)
  - [From the laboratory to the consumer: Innovation, supply chain, and adoption with applications to natural resources](#)

Keep reading to learn more,

---

**C-FARE**

### Market Corner

#### Why is Trade Freedom Important?

Recently the importance of agricultural trade for the United States was discussed which accounts for over one-third of U.S. gross farm income. However, the benefits of trade freedom or having less trade barriers go well beyond a specific industry or country as seen in the graph below. Countries are divided into three trade freedom groups, lowest, middle, and highest. The areas compared for each trade freedom group are higher average per capita national income, food security, political stability along with violence and terrorism, and the environment. Countries with more trade freedom have higher average per capita national income, \$28,947, compared to \$8,513 and \$3,769 for the middle and lowest trade freedom groups, respectively. Moreover, countries with higher trade freedom scored higher in terms of food security. This is an interesting point as some people believe that in order to have food security most of the food must be produced domestically, which is not necessarily the case. Countries should produce agricultural products in which they have comparative and competitive advantages and import the ones that they do not or cannot produce them year-round.

Countries with higher trade freedom experience more political stability and less violence and terrorism. Something very important for law-abiding citizens that just want a peaceful life for themselves and their families. Finally, countries with more trade freedom also have healthier environments and less polluted ecosystems. As in the area of food security, trade freedom allows countries to be more efficient in the use of their resources by producing those products that they are competitive and import the rest.

## Luis Ribera, C-FARE Board Member and Professor at Texas A&M University

---

### ICYMI

- Join us at the next C-FARE webinar, Food Security in the U.S. and Worldwide: What the Data Tell Us About Hunger and Policy, on Friday, April 28 at 12 p.m. EST on Registration is available [here](#).
  - C-FARE’s Webinar on “**Food Shopping at Dollar Stores: The Changing Face of Food Retail, and What It Means for Consumers**” is now available on our [website](#) and through this [recording](#).
  - Check out our fourth episode of C-FARE’s podcast [Get a Grip with FARE](#) featuring Peyton Ferrier and Steve Neff from the USDA Economists Group.
- 

### New Directions

- **The economics of malnutrition: Dietary transition and food system transformation.** Rapid increases in food supplies have reduced global hunger, while rising burdens of diet-related disease have made poor diet quality the leading cause of death and disability around the world. Today's “double burden” of undernourishment in utero and early childhood then undesired weight gain and obesity later in life is accompanied by a third less visible burden of micronutrient imbalances. [Learn more here](#).
- **This year, the Graduate Student Section (GSS) is partnering with the Council on Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics (C-FARE) to host the 3rd Annual Policy Communications Competition.** This competition provides graduate students with an opportunity to gain experience in both written and verbal policy communication. Attached, please find a copy of the Call for Participation. The deadline to submit your written policy brief is June 2, 2023. The competition will take place at the 2023 AAEA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. [Learn more here](#).
- **From the laboratory to the consumer: Innovation, supply chain, and adoption with applications to natural resources.** Research on innovation has two strands: institutions undertaking innovation as a research and development process and companies commercializing innovative products. This study combines these strands, analyzing a sequence going from an innovation supply chain to a product supply chain from laboratory to market. [Read more here](#).