

About this Report

This report provides a detailed economic assessment of the magnitude and sources of the economic benefits to Brazil since the early 1980s from varietal improvements in upland rice, edible beans, and soybeans. The authors pay particular attention to isolating the benefits from genetic improvement, which they distinguish from other factors that change grain yield or quality. They use detailed information on the genetic and breeding histories of each crop and the institutional arrangements for crop-improvement research in Brazil to estimate the benefits attributable to the research done by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and by other Brazilian agencies. They capture international spill-in effects as well. The authors also provide more general insight into the importance of addressing attribution questions in evaluating public research investments, develop some methods for doing so, and illustrate how to apply them.

About the Authors

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Assessing and Attributing the Benefits from Varietal Improvement Research in Brazil

Philip G. Pardey, Julian M. Alston, Connie Chan-Kang,
Eduardo C. Magalhães, and Stephen A. Vosti



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