

Notes from People and Project Finder session

Topic: Agriculture and Food Security

Delegates present:

Joao Veiga (University of Sydney)

Tim Grant (Life Cycle Strategies Pty Ltd)

Christian Reynolds (University of Aberdeen)

Michalis Hadjikakou (UNSW)

Isabella See (UNSW)

Carla Frankel (UNSW)

Main Discussion points

- Issues of global food security in relation to Australia.
 - o The environmental, social and economic impacts of Australia becoming a food bowl for Asia. The IElab would allow choosing a region or several regions which have been identified as candidates for agricultural expansion/intensification and modelling the potential consequences of boosting food production
 - o What will be the global and local impacts of decisions to produce more or less crops in Australia? These are perhaps more complex questions that would require the use of a dynamic trade model (e.g partial equilibrium). However, the IElab is a useful tool for assessing the immediate potential impacts of such decisions.

- Can we model the potential TBL costs and benefits of alternative agricultural practices such as inter-cropping and no-till farming? This could involve a study in an area such as the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) using the IElab as the basis for defining the geographic and economic boundaries of the region.

- The IElab can also be used to define other important agricultural regions, e.g dairy farming in Victoria, cattle ranching in Queensland or the Northern Territory etc. The inclusion of new satellite indicators such as land and water would certainly increase the research possibilities.