4.7. The evolution of productivity in agriculture, 16th to 19th century: the case of Germany

Panel organiser: Pfister, Ulrich, University of Münster, Germany

The session presents novel research on the evolution of agricultural productivity in regions poorly covered by earlier work. In addition it aims at different approaches at measuring productivity in agricultural history relative to the type of information they yield, their precision and their potential to cover long periods of time. Beyond conventional input-output ratios this includes measures for labor productivity, land productivity and, if possible, total factor productivity. New data series produced by the contributions render it possible to analyze the impact of conventional input-output ratios this includes measures for labor productivity, land productivity and, if possible, to the type of information they yield, their precision and their potential to cover long periods of time. Beyond earlier work. In addition it aims at different approaches at measuring productivity in agricultural history relative to the type of information they yield, their precision and their potential to cover long periods of time. Beyond

4.7.1. Land rental values in north-western German in a European context, c. 1600–1920

Bracht, Johannes, University of Münster, Germany

The paper presents the first long term series of land rental values for Germany. Following an indirect approach deflated leasehold prices from different regions in Westphalia (north-western Germany) are interpreted as an indicator for land productivity. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of methodological aspects of the index construction and deflation. The second part plac-

4.7.2. Agricultural development in a low-wage industrial setting: Saxony, c. 1790–1830

Kopsidis, Michael, Leibnitz-Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO), Halle (Saale), Germany

Pfister, Ulrich, University of Münster, Germany

The characteristics of regional paths of industrialization had a deep impact on agricultural development during early industrialization in Germany. From 1840 rising incomes in the course of a “high wage – low energy cost” industrialization based on coal and steel and a rapid urbanization triggered a demand driven agricultural revolution in Northwest Germany. In contrast, Saxony, whose early industrialization c. 1800-1860 followed a “low wage – high energy cost” strategy based on textile production and slow urbaniza-

4.7.3. Labour productivity in agriculture: Germany, 1500–1850

Pfister, Ulrich, University of Münster, Germany

The study uses novel datasets on real wages, prices, urbanization and population size to carry out an indirect estimate of agricul-

Participants

Pfister, Ulrich
PhD in history, University of Zürich 1984. Current position: Full professor in economic and social history, University of Münster (since 1996). Special research interests: The first agricultural revolution in Germany, c. 1500–1700.

Svensson, Patrick