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SEMINAIRE D'ECONOMIE

Agriculture and Economic Growth in Tunisia

Houssemeddine CHEBBI

Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion de Nabeul (FSEGN)

houssemeddine.chebbi@isaas.rnu.tn

Résumé:

Although the high importance placed on the agricultural sector, in the context of the Tunisian economy, the issue of agricultural contribution to the economic growth has often been raised by policymakers but rarely examined empirically. The objective of this research is to assess the role of agriculture into economic growth and its interactions with other sectors of the Tunisian economy. We use the Johansen's multivariate approach to study the cointegration of the different sectors of the Tunisian economy and overcome the problem of spurious regression. Special attention is paid to investigate non-causality between agriculture and other economic sectors. Empirical results suggest that all Tunisian economic sectors cointegrate and tend to move together. In addition, weak exogeneity for agricultural sector is rejected and this underlines that the agricultural sector should be considered by policymakers in the analysis of intersector growth. However, in the short-run, agriculture in Tunisia seems to have a partial role as a driving force in the growth of other non-agricultural sectors and agricultural growth may be conducive only to agro-food industry sub-sector.

In addition, while Tunisia started improving quality of services and restructuring the banking sector to make it "internationally" viable, our statistical results indicate that agricultural sector does not fully benefit from the development of the commerce and services sector and the presence of credit market constraints continue to hamper growth of agricultural output in Tunisia.

Mots Clés: Economic growth, agricultural sector, cointegration, causality

JEL Classification : C22, O13, Q18

Responsable de la Coordination du Séminaire

Moez EL ELJ, ISG Tunis/LEGI-EPT/Tél: 71 774 611- Poste 254 / E-mail : moezelj@yahoo.fr

Vendredi 05 mars à 15 h à l'Ecole Polytechnique de Tunisie

Salle EC14