

Tobacco Production and Deforestation in Malawi

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Abstract: Tobacco is regarded as 'Green Gold' in Malawi due to its contribution to foreign reserves, enhancement of GDP, and provision of employment opportunities in rural areas. Additionally, it serves as a significant means of alleviating poverty. Furthermore, it plays a crucial role in generating revenue for the nation. However, tobacco cultivation results in environmental degradation, including significant deforestation, which worsens climate change in Malawi. Therefore, this paper aims to investigate the hypothesis that tobacco yield has a positive impact on deforestation in Malawi. The study employs the ARDL model and identifies a positive correlation between tobacco yield and deforestation in the short term, although this relationship is somewhat weaker in the long term. Nevertheless, various initiatives are being implemented by African countries to achieve sustainability targets by utilizing sustainability indicators.

Keywords: Deforestation, Tobacco Yield, Granger Causality, ARDL, Environmental Sustainability

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