Abstract

The years between the crisis of 1930 and the Second World War, are known in Argentina agrarian historiography as the period of «stagnation». Indeed, the growth in agricultural production recorded since the late nineteenth century slows and even reverses in some years. However, most of the papers on the period, tested explanations focused on national policies towards the sector, the behavior of producers or issues of social structure. Few authors have focused in the analysis of the global agricultural market and have tried to analyze the evolution of Argentina’s agricultural sector compared to what happened in other countries. The aim of this paper is to analyze the global market for agricultural products in a period when the Great Depression and World War make inevitable to study the global context to understand any national economy. Thus, on the basis of the existing literature and statistical data of the International Agricultural Institute in Rome (after creation of the UN renamed FAO) and the UN world trade database (UN Comtrade), we will study the evolution of world trade in the industry and its relationship to the development of Argentine agriculture. We will analyze the crisis of the agricultural world market between 1930 and 1945 and the changes it suffered in the postwar. These changes in turn influenced the transformation of the argentine agricultural sector from the 60’s, with a significant process of modernization and the emergence of new crops such as soybean, and new markets such as Asia.

Keywords

Argentina, Europe, agricultural sector, world trade, cereals, soybean.