

Role of Technology and Innovation in Restructuring Agriculture to Climate Change

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Abstract

The US National Research Council just related a seminal report called 'A New Biology for the 21st century'*. This report recognizes the central role biotechnology in addressing future environmental, energy and food security problems. It is argued that over the next few decades we will see a transition from a petrochemical industry into a more clean biological industry. Yet, surprisingly, hardly any international conference on climate change has put the role of biotechnology on the agenda. At the same time, national governments continue to subsidize agriculture, the coal industry and many other industries that have some economic or political importance. In many cases they are also exempt from CO₂ emission permits.

In my research I investigate possible reasons for these inconsistencies by analyzing the public debate on climate change from a political economy point view. In this context, I focus on the gate-keepers who set the global agenda on climate change but may also have their own agenda reflected through their respective institutional affiliations and personal commitments.

* http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12764