

Food+ Research Symposium
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Faculty Abstract

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Supply Chains.

ABSTRACT: Prof. Bell discussed three trends that affect the trading of commodities in the world today. The first is a move away from crops as commodities: crops are increasingly being segregated and tracked both for food safety reasons but also because of consumer demands for different food types. The second trend is a renewed interest in self-sufficiency by nations. The international trading of food is economically optimal but not if it leaves a country exposed to disruption. Finally there is the problem of correlated risk: as communications improve, consumers and countries react to events in coordinated ways, creating large swings in supply and demand.