

REVIEW PAPER

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Global Research on Trade Policies and Empowerment of Resource-Poor Farmers in Developing Nations

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ABSTRACT

Understanding global research on trade policies and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in developing nations is essential for guiding equitable agricultural development. This research employs Biblioshiny and VOSviewer to quantitatively map publication trends, co-authorship communities, institutional research output, and thematic development in 246 peer-reviewed documents indexed in Scopus from 2000 to 2025. To determine patterns of collaboration as well as key research areas of focus, the approach entailed partitioning and analyzing bibliographic data through elaborate search queries, data cleansing, and advanced visualisation. The results shows a remarkable rise in research productivity in the midst of global shocks like the 2008 food crisis and COVID-19, with theme concepts centered on sustainable development, international trade, and food security. Although South Asian, sub-Saharan African, and marginal smallholder views are underrepresented, the discipline remains dominated by Global North authors and organizations. Also, thematic gaps remain in the regions of digital agriculture, grassroots empowerment, gender equity, and cooperative strategies. The analysis points toward the need for further research that is South-South oriented, multidisciplinary, and context-sensitive. In further developing more extensive and effective trade policies, subsequent research must prioritize integrative approaches that actually enable resilience and empowerment for vulnerable farming groups across developing nations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ① The predominant research themes in this field center on sustainable development, international trade, and food security.
- ② The discipline is dominated by Global North institutions, leaving South Asian, sub-Saharan African, and smallholder perspectives underrepresented.
- ③ Significant research gaps remain regarding digital agriculture, grassroots empowerment, gender equity, and cooperative strategies.

Keywords: Trade policy, international trade, resource-poor farmers, sustainable agriculture, empowerment, VOSviewer, scopus

The economic resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in developing countries are significantly shaped by agricultural and trade policies in the age of globalization and changing trade liberalization regimes. More than 80% of farmers in low-income regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and parts of Latin

America are resource-poor (FAO, 2021). They face structural obstacles like poor infrastructure,

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limited market access, weak institutional support, and price volatility. Global trade regulations and macroeconomic changes that frequently favour large-scale agricultural and export-oriented strategies make these difficulties even worse. As a result, discussions about equity, empowerment, and sustainability in agriculture increasingly centre on international trade policy, which was formerly thought to be a field of economic liberalization (Anderson & Martin, 2005). The revolutionary potential of inclusive trade frameworks that incorporate equality objectives, environmental principles, and smallholder rights is highlighted by recent research (OECD, 2020). Nonetheless, the research in this area is still dispersed across disciplines and pays unequal emphasis to important commodities, areas, and empowering tactics. Fewer studies, for instance, look at the distinct effects on marginalized producers based on gender, geography, or landholding status, whereas many investigate the effects of WTO regulations or Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on the overall performance of agricultural trade (Gonzalez, 2022; Baffes *et al.* 2010). In order to trace intellectual advancement, pinpoint research gaps, and direct scholarly and policy focus toward more equitable trade governance, this fragmentation calls for a methodical synthesis.

A bibliometric technique is used in this work, titled “Bridging the Gap: Mapping Global Research on Trade Policies and Empowerment of Resource-Poor Farmers in Developing Nations,” to examine the composition and development of international research on this topic. Bibliometric analysis enables researchers to evaluate the scientific landscape by examining the co-authorship patterns, institutional contributions, and thematic concentrations. Bibliometric analysis allows researchers to assess the scientific landscape quantitatively (Donthu *et al.* 2021). In contrast to conventional literature assessments, bibliometric techniques provide a data-driven, reproducible methodology for illustrating topic shifts and intellectual networks over time.

The significance of such investigation is emphasized by global commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, especially Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), which call for inclusive and equitable growth strategies

in rural economies. When it comes to empowering smallholders through responsive trade policy, social justice and environmental sustainability are equally important as economic efficiency (UNCTAD, 2019; Gonzalez, 2022).

This bibliometric investigation therefore serves three key research questions:

1. to chart the temporal and thematic evolution of research at the nexus of trade policy and farmer empowerment;
2. to identify influential authors, countries, institutions, and collaborative networks driving this scholarship;
3. to reveal gaps and underexplored themes warranting further inquiry.

By doing this, this work helps to create a more action-oriented, multidisciplinary, and inclusive research agenda that puts resource-poor farmers’ goals and lived experiences front and centre.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to quantify research performance and the structural dynamics of academic areas, bibliometrics has emerged as a crucial instrument in the quantitative study of scientific publications. According to Donthu *et al.* bibliometric analysis is a methodical and rigorous way to examine and assess sizable academic information datasets, providing an in-depth understanding of advancements and new trends in a certain field. With the help of sophisticated software tools like VOSviewer and Biblioshiny, as well as extensive bibliographic databases like Scopus, the use of bibliometric methods in social and economic studies particularly those on trade policies, agriculture, and development has greatly increased in recent years, despite the fact that they were initially more prevalent in the natural and health sciences (Donthu *et al.* 2021).

By examining the contributions of authors, organisations, nations, and journals, bibliometric analysis provides a clear visual representation of the intellectual framework within a field of study. Such techniques are crucial for identifying research patterns and scholarly partnerships, which help to map the conceptual frameworks of developing topics, claims Wang *et al.* In particular, co-citation and co-occurrence studies shed light

on the relationships and temporal evolution of study themes (Gonzalez, 2022). In order to provide an unbiased and thorough picture of the global scholarly landscape, this study uses bibliometric techniques to methodically identify publication patterns, important contributors, and thematic clusters within the field of trade policies affecting resource-poor farmers in developing economies.

The Scopus database was selected for data gathering because it is well-suited for bibliometric research and covers a wide range of interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed literature. Using pertinent terminologies, we created a comprehensive search query to encompass the range of research on trade agreements, smallholder empowerment, and vulnerable agricultural populations:

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(( "trade agreement*" OR "trade policy"
OR "trade liberalization" OR "regional trade
agreement*" OR WTO OR "international trade" )
AND ( smallholder* OR "resource-poor farmer*" OR
"family farmer*" OR farmer* OR cultivator* OR producer* )
AND ( agricultur* OR agribusiness OR "crop
production" OR "food production" OR "farm production"
OR "food security" OR "rural development" )
AND ( develop* OR "low-income countr*" OR
"emerging econom*" OR Africa OR Asia OR "Latin
America" OR "sub-Saharan Africa" OR "Global South" )
AND ( vulnerab* OR inclusiv* OR equity OR "social
inclusion" OR risk OR marginali* OR empowerment OR
sustaina* ))
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The search was limited to publications from 2000 to 2025, filtered for English language and the subject areas Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, and Economics/Econometrics/Finance. A dataset of 246 documents was produced by this thorough approach, and it was exported for additional bibliometric analysis. The three main stages into which the bibliometric workflow was divided:

1. Data collection: Using the above-described comprehensive keyword query, bibliographic data from Scopus were systematically retrieved, guaranteeing topic inclusivity and reflecting the subject's multidisciplinary nature.

2. Data Processing: To increase network formation accuracy and decrease redundancy, preprocessing involved removing duplicate information and standardising author and institutional names.

3. Analysis and Visualization: To create visual network maps that included co-authorship, institutional collaborations, citation linkages, and keyword co-occurrences, VOSviewer was utilized. In these maps, circles represent items like authors or keywords, and their sizes correspond to the frequency of occurrence or citation. According to Aria and Cuccurullo (2017), colour-coded clusters reveal thematic groupings within the literature, while connecting lines indicate intellectual connections, such as co-citations or co-occurrences. To provide a comprehensive quantitative overview, Biblioshiny (Bibliometrix, R package) supplemented the network analyses with detailed descriptive statistics, temporal trends, country-level productivity assessments, and thematic evolution evaluations.

With the help of this integrated bibliometric approach, we were able to identify key research issues, prominent academics, significant contributing organizations, and cooperative trends influencing the study of trade policy and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in developing nations. The approach guarantees reproducibility and transparency, highlighting the strong intellectual foundation of an ever-evolving discipline.

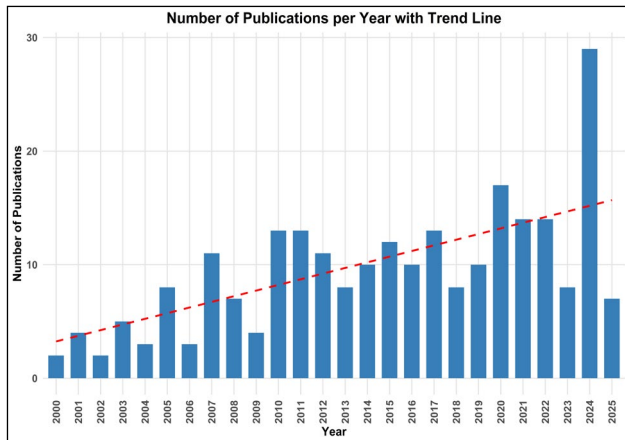
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Temporal Distribution Analysis

Tracking world events and paradigm shifts in development thought, the evolution of research output on trade policies and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in emerging nations between 2000 and 2025 creates a captivating story of scholarly awareness. From 2000 to 2006, just four papers were published annually on average, which was indicative of the field's infancy as it grappled with broad, frequently abstract themes regarding how agricultural transformation and international trade affect the livelihoods of smallholder and marginalised farmers. In order to lay the groundwork for the subsequent rush of empirical and policy-oriented research, early work during this time was either more theoretical or concentrated on case studies from a small number of visible economies.

International shocks, particularly the 2008 food crisis and significant rounds of WTO negotiations, caused a significant surge in scholarly output

starting in 2007 and reaching to 12 publications in 2015. Research on the distributive effects of trade liberalisation, agricultural market instability, and the rise of regional trade agreements became more prevalent during this decade.



Source: Own processing, using data provided by Scopus, 2025.

Fig. 1: Annual publications in field

As demonstrated by parallel trends in agribusiness research and food system transformation, which have emphasised the distinct effects of trade agreements on rural poverty, livelihoods, and gendered market access, the literature’s maturity and diversity during this period reflect the growing global concern for inclusive development (FAO, 2020). The frequency of publications remained consistent between 2016 and 2020, averaging 14 to 17 articles each year, with a high in 2020. Here, the focus of research shifted to the relationship between systemic vulnerabilities in global agricultural value chains and market shocks, like those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (Kumari et al. 2021). In terms of methodology, both macro- and micro-level approaches were more often used throughout these years. A significant growth has been observed after the year 2020, reaching 29 papers in 2024. This increase is a result of both recent crises and ongoing policy interest in incorporating equity concerns and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into agricultural trade, along with mega-regional policy innovations like the African Continental Free Trade Area and growing support for equitable, sustainable food systems. A comprehensive knowledge of the influence of trade on rural change is reflected in the growing interdisciplinary nature of bibliometric research in recent years, which links gender studies, sustainability, economics, and social sciences.

3.2. Publication Type

The shift in trends in publications on the relationship between trade policy and smallholder empowerment shows both positive developments and enduring difficulties in international research. Global networks of scholars, policymakers, and advocates have recognised the need for inclusive, empirically-driven agricultural trade policy, as evidenced by the field’s evident growth in response to the urgency imposed by global market volatility.

Table 1: Typology of the 246 documents

Document Type	Number
Article	147
Book Chapter	54
Conference Paper	19
Review	17
Book	6
Conference Review	1
Editorial	1
Note	1

The 246 documents on trade policies and resource-poor farmers’ empowerment in emerging nations that were pulled from Scopus include a variety of publication genres. Comprising 147 items, or 57.7% of the corpus, are articles demonstrating the crucial role peer-reviewed journals play in sharing theoretical and empirical research. The 54 papers (22%) that are book chapters demonstrate a deep engagement with the multidisciplinary, in-depth studies that are characteristic of edited volumes. Reviews (7%) and conference papers (7.8%) demonstrate regular synthesis of disparate research streams and lively intellectual discourse. In addition to minor contributions like conference reviews, editorials, and notes, books (2.4%) highlight new or specialised discourse parts.

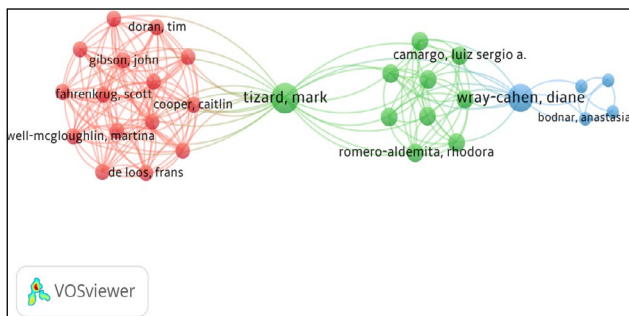
This distribution is consistent with bibliometric trends in comparable domains, where book chapters address interdisciplinary demands that span economics, social sciences, and agronomy, while journal articles guarantee academic excellence (Donthu et al. 2021). Conference papers and reviews indicate that research is dynamic and changing, incorporating new topics like climate adaptation, digital trade, and fair policy frameworks (Gonzalez, 2022). There may be a need for more policy-focused

publications to spur knowledge translation given the dearth of in-depth books and articles.

Analysis of the Most Cited Authors (Co-Authorship)

Based on bibliometric data from 246 documents (2000–2025), the co-authorship network map produced by VOSviewer offers important insights into the collaboration structures of researchers working on international studies of trade policies and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in developing nations. Mark is a key node at the heart of the network, Tizard, acting as a collaborative and intellectual link between various author clusters. Mark Tizard's direct connections to two significant collaboration clusters, one toward the right (green and blue nodes) and one toward the left (red nodes), indicate the centrality, which points to a prominent role in promoting interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research.

Prominent authors including Cooper, Caitlin; Fahrenkrug, Scott; Doran, Tim; Gibson, John; Well-McLoughlin, Martina; and De Loos, Frans, are included in the red-marked cluster on the left, which is highly interrelated. These researchers' proximity and frequent co-authorship suggest that they form a cohesive collaborative group that has certainly made a significant contribution to the theme's beginnings, whether it be in methodological developments, market volatility, empirical studies, or the institutional and structural aspects of agricultural trade in particular regions.



Source: Own processing using data provided by Scopus, 2025.

Fig. 2: Co-citation of authors

The core node connecting from the right, i.e., Camargo, Luiz Sergio A., and Romero-Aldemita, Rhodora, lead a distinct yet unified team that reflects local knowledge, possibly focusing on

the particulars of agricultural commerce and smallholder empowerment in Asia or Latin America. This clustering suggests regional research and local knowledge creation within the larger field of study. Looking to the right, the blue cluster emanates from Diane Wray-Cahen, a crucial link working with several authors. Her co-authorship relationships, especially with Bodnar, Anastasia, and other members of the blue cluster, demonstrate significant work, probably in the areas of institutional frameworks, international comparative studies, or policy evaluation. With fewer but direct relationships, the pattern of these connections suggests new or highly focused collaborative study, which is frequently a sign of innovative thematic or policy-driven inquiry.

Significantly, the map's bridging links, particularly from Tizard, Mark to authors in both peripheral clusters, indicate characteristics of an established and interdisciplinary field: strong internal ties combined with integrative connections that cut across methodological, geographic, and thematic boundaries. This structure reflects the field's transformation from discrete areas of study to an interconnected knowledge network where knowledge from a variety of backgrounds can inform trade policy and empowerment research in a synergistic way.

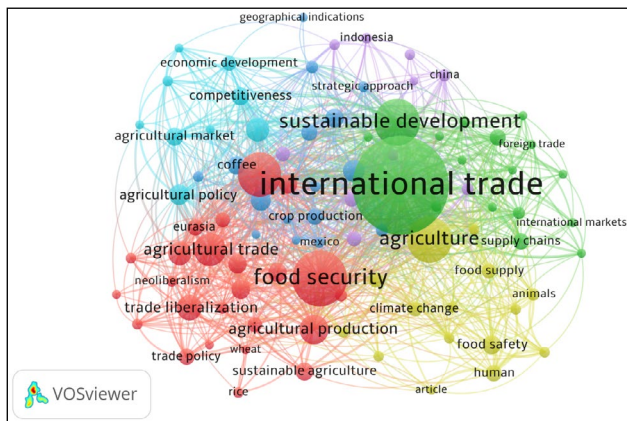
Scientific findings highlight the importance of cooperation in tackling difficult agricultural policy issues. The clusters show both established research partnerships and new partnerships that could spur innovation and translate into policy suggestions for disadvantaged farming communities. As evidenced by the relative lack of peripheral or isolated nodes, the underrepresentation of authors from the Global South or practitioner sectors indicates a significant gap that needs to be strategically addressed to ensure more inclusive, context-sensitive scholarship. This underrepresentation mirrors larger trends in global agricultural research.

Co-Occurrence of Keywords

The keyword co-occurrence network provides a thorough picture of the thematic contours influencing research on trade policy and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in developing nations. It was created using the 246 documents written between 2000 and 2025 and visualised using

VOSviewer. This network focuses on how global trade agreements affect agricultural markets, productivity, and the livelihoods of marginalized farming communities reveals a complex but coherent intellectual structure with core concepts like “international trade,” “agriculture,” “food security,” “sustainable development,” “agricultural trade,” and “agricultural production” emerging as central nodes.

A closer inspection of the map’s structure illustrates the degree to which the field has developed towards systems thinking. For example, concepts like “market access,” “trade liberalisation,” and “value chains” are tightly clustered with keywords like “crop production,” “rice,” “coffee,” and “wheat.” This suggests that scholars are becoming more aware of how shifts in global policy have a direct impact on commodity systems, which are vital to millions of smallholders. As researchers examine the precise mechanisms through which trade reforms, export bans, and subsidy shifts affect livelihoods, price volatility, and rural resilience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, commodity-specific terms like “rice” and “coffee,” have emerged as smallholder crops in the developing world. This shift reflects an analytical shift away from abstract modelling and toward more grounded, empirical investigation (Pingali *et al.* 2014).



Source: Own processing, using data provided by Scopus, 2025

Fig. 3: Co-appearance of keywords

Notably, the co-occurrence of nation and geographic identifiers, such as “China,” “Indonesia,” “Eurasia,” and “Mexico,” indicates thorough country-level and comparative research. For instance, China and Indonesia’s prominence draws attention to how these countries have evolved from import-

dependent economies to powerful players in international agricultural export markets, together with a change that has significant ramifications for pricing, spread of technology and regional food security. In addition to the research focused on their distinct policy paths, their centrality in the network reflects a broader interest in rising economy models, as models or counterpoints for other developing countries considering trade liberalisation and rural empowerment (Sukarno *et al.* 2016). These are grouped with phrases like “climate change,” “food safety,” and “supply chains,” which indicate emerging areas of study and heated policy discussions. This perspective reflects the growing integration of supply-chain disruption, food quality standards, and climate vulnerability analysis into assessments of trade agreements and market reforms. While simultaneously posing pressing concerns regarding the ability of current trade and agricultural institutions to adapt and safeguard the most vulnerable farmers, this thematic expansion attests to the field’s responsiveness to real-world shocks, as demonstrated by global pandemics, extreme weather, and geopolitical instability (Falkner & Buzan, 2019).

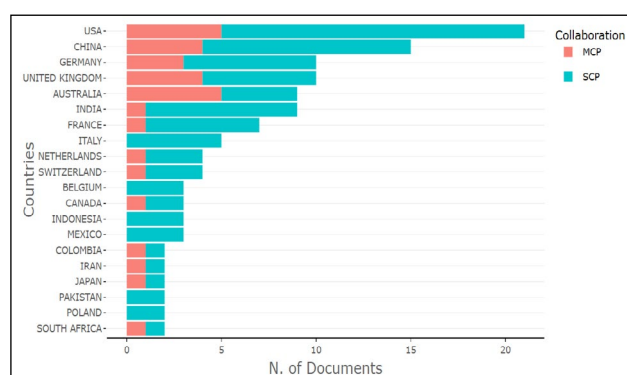
The uneven integration of large agricultural economies outside the key clusters is a notable phenomenon that highlights findings from other global assessments. Despite the crucial population sizes and policy initiatives, regions like South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America are underrepresented in comparison to China, Indonesia, and Mexico. Furthermore, as crops like rice, wheat, and coffee receive a lot of attention, there exists little connection to low-nutrient or underutilised crops, broader agro-biodiversity, and livelihoods associated with mixed farming systems domains that are frequently vital for the poorest rural communities in the world (Dawson *et al.* 2016).

A notable gap in the bibliometric landscape of trade policy and resource-poor farmer empowerment research is highlighted by the keyword co-occurrence networks with a lack of important modern themes like “digital agriculture,” “empowerment,” and related ideas. This suggests that the scholarly discourse has not yet successfully included digital transformation, decentralised value chains and integrating institutional processes into the fundamental analysis, despite global

advancements and governmental emphasis on technology innovation and participatory governance. Similarly, the lack of use or underrepresentation of phrases like “cooperatives,” “risk management,” and “extension services” highlights a focus on macro-level trade and policy frameworks at the expense of localised adaptive strategies that are crucial for boosting inclusive empowerment and smallholder resilience. These gaps highlight an important area of study where future empirical and bibliometric investigations should concentrate on connecting socio-technical, community-driven solutions with structural trade studies. In order to create complex, systemically relevant frameworks that guide fair trade policies in line with the demands of marginalised farming communities in emerging economies, their practical realities should be addressed in the future.

Co-Authors Country Map

The co-authors’ country map, produced by Biblioshiny, gives a detailed window into the national contributions and collaborative processes behind research on trade policies and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in emerging economies from 2000 to 2025. This visualisation particularly shows the amount of co-authored outputs attributable to each country, split by the distinction between Single Country Publications (SCP) and Multiple Country Publications (MCP), in contrast to a collaboration map that depicts international linkages.



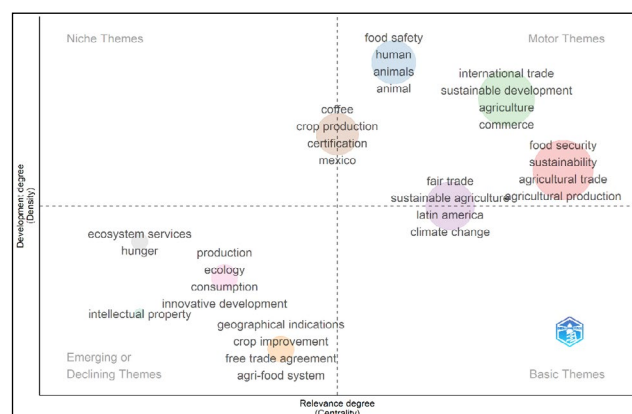
Source: Own processing, using data provided by Scopus, 2025.

Fig. 4: Co-author's country domain

The United States stands out as the clear leader on this map, with the most co-authored papers overall. Portfolio's high SCP share reflects the strong internal scholarly networks and robust institutional

resources, alongside notable MCPs, which highlight its international outreach and participation in multi-national research projects. The rapid growth and consolidation of China's research infrastructure within national borders is demonstrated by the country's high total co-authored output, which is primarily SCP (Qi, Y, 2025). Although its MCP numbers are increasing as internationalisation increases, a large portion of China's academic activity is still focused within local networks despite the country's considerable capacity. The balanced blends of SCP and MCP outputs from Germany, the UK, and Australia stand out, as evidenced by their noteworthy MCP ratios. These nations commit to broad partnerships with international researchers while simultaneously utilising robust local research systems. Their internationalised orientations encourage methodological variety and comparative analysis and establish them as significant nodes in the creation of knowledge that is pertinent to policy.

India's sizable research community devoted to agricultural trade and rural development places it among the top nations in terms of absolute co-author production. Nonetheless, SCP dominates India's scholarly publication pattern, indicating that most co-authored research is produced inside national institutional structures. This suggests a thriving, independent national research environment.



Source: Own processing, using data provided by Scopus, 2025.

Fig. 5: Thematic Map

However, the comparatively low MCP share indicates an unrealised possibility for more extensive participation in global research networks. In addition to increasing the international visibility and policy impact of research grounded in India's distinct agroecological and socioeconomic realities,

expanding participation in MCPs would give Indian researchers greater access to diverse perspectives and global best practices.

Thematic Map

By carefully separating research themes based on their development (density) and relevance (centrality), the thematic map derived from co-word analysis provides a narrowly focused overview of studies conducted on trade policies and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in developing economies. High-centrality and high-density subjects, including “international trade,” “sustainable development,” “agriculture,” “food security,” “sustainability,” “agricultural trade,” and “agricultural production”, are heavily represented in the Motor Themes quadrant of this map. This illustrates how the field has consolidated around the interconnected demands of productivity, sustainability, security and global trade flows by displaying developed, cohesive research clusters that frame current discussions about market integration, inclusive growth, and the changing policy landscape (Pingali *et al.* 2014).

On the other hand, the Basic Themes and Niche Themes quadrants are notably lacking. Research subjects with low centrality (relevance) and low density (development) within the academic landscape of trade policies and resource-poor farmer empowerment from 2000 to 2025 are represented in the lower left quadrant of the thematic map, which corresponds to the Emerging or Declining Themes. Terms like “ecosystem services,” “hunger,” “production,” “ecology,” “consumption,” “innovative development,” “intellectual property,” “geographical indications,” “crop improvement,” “free trade agreement,” and “agri-food system” are scattered across this area. Their underdeveloped and peripheral status suggests that, despite occasional interest, these areas have not been able to significantly integrate into the main discussions of the field or spark strong, coherent research clusters. The scientific marginalisation of concepts like “intellectual property” and “ecosystem services” points to lost chances to link environmental value and innovation policy to the well-being of farmers with limited resources. Understudied connections between institutional arrangements, technological adaptation, value-added production,

and their concrete effects on smallholder livelihoods are highlighted by the use of the terms “free trade agreement,” “crop improvement,” and “consumption” as stand-alone concepts. Future bibliometric and empirical research should integrate these issues with current discussions on sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience in international agricultural commerce in order to move these crucial subjects into the mainstream academic conversation. It will be crucial to invest in cross-regional comparative frameworks, advance methodological pluralism (combining quantitative, case-based, and participatory techniques), and connect these developing themes to real-world empowering outcomes. In order to promote equitable, sustainable development for underserved agrarian communities, such an endeavour would close existing structural gaps, spark revolutionary research directions, and guarantee that academics and decision-makers fully utilize ecosystem services, intellectual property management, and innovation systems (Sukarno *et al.* 2016).

CONCLUSION

This comprehensive bibliometric review of 246 academic publications from 2000 to 2025 outlines the global research dynamics and intellectual trends surrounding trade policy and the empowerment of resource-poor farmers in developing nations. International trade, sustainable development, agricultural production, and food security are just a few of the high-density, high-relevance topics that form the field’s mature core and serve as fundamental pillars influencing current academic and policy discourse. The United States, China, and major European cities are among the internationally networked hubs that make significant contributions. These hubs control the majority of publishing output, collaboration networks, and thought leadership. Notwithstanding these advancements, the investigation shows clear and enduring gaps that limit comprehensive understanding and policy influence. In trade and agricultural policy studies, intersectional and vulnerable group dynamics are critically underappreciated, as evidenced by the notable absence of equity-oriented themes like gender, youth, social inclusion, and empowerment from the major study focus. As a result of a persistent macroeconomic and policy-centric

bias, new and innovative subjects such as digital agriculture, regional institutional innovations like cooperatives and extension services, and adaptive risk management techniques are also not adequately included in mainstream research.

In addition, there are still disparities in the geographic research landscape: South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and other developing regions are underrepresented in comparison to Latin America, East Asia; and South–South research collaboration networks, which are essential for producing diverse and contextually grounded knowledge, are still in their infancy. To effectively address localised trade impacts, resilience strategies, and sustainable empowerment pathways, it is imperative to develop integrative, cross-cutting frameworks in addition to deep, context-sensitive inquiry, as indicated by the glaring lack of foundational (basic) and specialised (niche) thematic clusters. Increasing research to include socio-technical, gender-sensitive, and participatory perspectives; strengthening South-South and multidisciplinary collaborations and incorporating digital innovations and grassroots institutional mechanisms into empirical studies are all necessary to close these gaps.

In the face of intricate global market changes, developing trade policies that truly assist marginalized farmers requires nations like India to increase their international participation and generate longitudinal, localized evidence. To create a comprehensive, inclusive, and useful body of information that can guide fair trade governance and promote sustainable rural development, it is ultimately imperative to close these research gaps. Thus, this bibliometric foundation establishes an important framework for future research that aims to bridge the gap between macro-level trade frameworks and micro-level realities of empowerment, guaranteeing that practice and policy co-evolve to address the issues faced by resource-poor farmers in the developing world.

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