

Non-linear Price Transmission between Biofuels, Fuels and Food Commodities *

Ladislav Kristoufek [†]Karel Janda [‡]David Zilberman [§]

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Abstract

For the biofuel markets and related commodities, we study their price transmission, which is in fact equivalent to studying price cross-elasticities. Importantly, we focus on the price dependence of the price transmission mechanism. Several methodological caveats are discussed. Specifically, we combine the memory robust feasible generalized least squares estimation with two-stage least squares to control for endogeneity bias and inconsistency. We find that both ethanol and biodiesel prices are responsive to their production factors (ethanol to corn, and biodiesel to German diesel). The strength of transmission between both significant pairs increased remarkably during the food crisis of 2007/2008. Causality tests further show that price changes in production factors lead the changes in biofuels even after controlling for price effects.

Abstrakt

V této práci se zabýváme cenovým přenosem na trhu biopaliv a s nimi provázaných komodit. Analýza cenového přenosu odpovídá analýze cenových křížových pružností. Zaměřujeme se na závislost mechanismu cenového přenosu na úrovni cen. Diskutujeme několik metodologických problémů. Propojujeme metodu zobecněných a dvoustupňových nejmenších čtverců s cílem vzít v úvahu vychýlení a nekonzistence odhadu způsobené endogenitou proměnných. V naší analýze zjišťujeme, že ceny etanolu i bionafty reagují na své výrobní faktory (etanol na kukuřici, bionafta na německou naftu). Sila cenového přenosu mezi oběma významnými páry komodit výrazně vzrostla během potravinové krize v letech 2007/2008. Testování kauzality dále odhaluje, že změny cen výrobních faktorů vedou ke změnám cen biopaliv, i když bereme v úvahu cenové vlivy.

Keywords: biofuels, price transmission, price cross-elasticity, causality

JEL classification: C22, Q16, Q42

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[†]Institute of Economic Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University and Institute of Information Theory and Automation, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. kristoufek@ies-prague.org.

[‡]Institute of Economic Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, University of Economics, Prague, and Affiliate Fellow at CERGE-EI. Correspondence address: IES FSV UK, Opletalova 26, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic, Karel.Janda@seznam.cz.

[§]University of California in Berkeley. zilber11@berkeley.edu.