Productivity Dynamics in the Arab Economies: The Challenges of Generating Multifactor Productivity Estimates at Industry Level

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Paper Abstract: The growth gap between the Arab countries and the rest of the world has been increasing since the 1990s, despite the economic and political transition in the Arab world. Against this background, the analysis of the empirics of growth in this part of the world becomes significant. Our attempts to quantify and examine the growth dynamics in the Arab world point to the lack of data for undertaking quality research. Reviewing the available information on three chosen countries - Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia from different international data sets, we explore the creation of an Arab KLEMS dataset which would allow examination of empirics of growth - both for the economy and sub sectors of the economy. In this light, we highlight the challenges that need to be overcome if multifactor productivity estimates can be created for three chosen countries - Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.