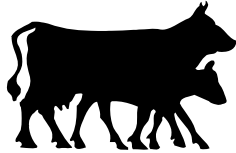




XXIV International Conference of Agricultural Economists

August 13-18, 2000, Berlin, Germany



COWBELL

CONFERENCE BULLETIN



Issue # 6

Friday, August 18, 2000

A Farewell

The 24th International Conference of Agricultural Economists in the reunited Berlin guaranteed an especially exciting environment. The fact that this conference was the biggest the IAAE ever had, in terms of the number of presented papers and of participants, highlights that we as a profession remain highly motivated to contribute to solving complex tasks that world agriculture, rural areas, producers, food industry, consumers and natural resources managers as well as policy makers are facing. This conference was a vibrant marketplace for new ideas and facts on how to shape agriculture's role in the future. As a profession we must recognize the need to make use of a variety of theories and paradigms in order to better explain the role of "Tomorrow's Agriculture" and play a role in shaping that future. Let us take a little dose of "post-modernism" home from Berlin, i.e.: let us continue to look for true facts, but only when we accept that there often may be different perspectives on 'the truth' may we be able to find pathways of research that contribute to actual change.

I would like to thank all organizers and all the participants who have contributed to this conference by presenting papers, ideas and arguments. The sustainability of the success of this conference will depend on our individual ability to constructively use this new knowledge. We owe immensely to all those, who made this conference possible. Prabhu Pingali and his team succeeded in developing and coordinating an excellent conference program. All essentials for making this conference possible on the ground relate to the local organizing committee led by Harald von Witzke with the superb management by Ulrike Marschinke.

The IAAE Council yesterday installed again a highly diverse Executive Committee, which will serve the association as an effective team. Its members stand for a multitude of research paradigms and can draw upon first hand knowledge of the regional agricultural problems.

Joachim von Braun,
President

Results of the Election

The results of the election held on Thursday are:

President elect:

Prabhu Pingali

Vice President Program:

David Colman

Members At Large:

Zhu Ling

Roley Piggott

Johan van Zyl

Secretary Treasurer:

Walter Armbruster

The following persons were elected as

Honorary Life Members:

John Longworth, Australia

Lieb Niewoudt, South Africa

D. Gale Johnson, USA

Alberto Valdes, Chile

The executive committee for the 2000-2003 period includes:

Past President: Douglas Hedley

President: Joachim von Braun

President Elect: Prabhu Pingali

Vice President Program: David Colman

Three Members at Large: Zhu Ling
Roley Piggott
Johan van Zyl

Secretary Treasurer: Walter Armbruster

Proceedings Editor: George Peters

Journal Editor: Stephan von Cramon-Traubadel

Membership Fees

The Council adopted the following new structure of membership fees:

1. Income of:	< \$ 25,000 or retirees	\$ 90
	< \$ 25,000 - \$ 50,000	\$ 145
	> \$ 50,000	\$ 175
	Students	\$ 90

2. Anyone who does not wish to subscribe to the journal will be offered a \$30 discount from the above prices.

Farewell Dinner on Friday, August 18, 2000

Location: Hotel Intercontinental
Budapesterstrasse 42

District: Berlin Charlottenburg

7:00-8:00 Welcome and Reception

8:00 Buffet-Style Dinner

Directions:

The easiest way to go there is by S-Bahn. You can either walk directly to the station Jannowitzbrücke or go to the station by subway. From the Haus am Köllnischen Park turn left into the Köpenicker Strasse. Then turn right into Heinrich-Heine-Strasse. 50 meters down the street you will see the blue "U" subway sign for the Heinrich-

Heine-Strasse station. Take the subway line U8 towards Wittenau. Go one station only to Jannowitzbrücke station and transfer to the "S" (green sign) train. You may take each train in the westbound, all trains travel to the station Zoologischer Garten. Exit the train at Zoologischer Garten (7 stops), then exit the station in the direction of Hardenbergstrasse. Hardenbergstrasse turns into Budapester Strasse after about 20 meters. Hotel Intercontinental is a few minutes walk. The travel time from the conference center is about 40 minutes.

Travel time by taxi is approximately 15 minutes and about DM 22,-.

Tours

There are still places available on the Friday guided museum and Saturday Berlin Sightseeing. For Friday, we are offering a tour visiting Checkpoint-Charlie-Museum, the Info-Box including a fascinating view from the roof deck., the New National Gallery and Märkisches Museum. Please contact the “Accompanying Persons Tour Counter” for registration and further

information. Also check on possible cancellations for the Berlin Tour on Thursday. All tours will meet in the lobby of the conference center.

Post Conference-

All persons who have booked Post Conference Tours should stop at the information Desk for final details

Results of the Best Contributed Paper Selection (Reported by David Colman)

Number of papers submitted	419
Number of reviewers	83
Number of papers willing to be considered	200
Number of papers rejected by both reviewers	103
Number of papers accepted by both reviewers	114
Number of papers where there was a split verdict	202

After two sets of blind reviewing, three contributed papers were selected for the plenary session to select a winner. The three excellent papers were by Tancredè Voituriez, Manitra Rakotoarisoa and Shala Shapouri, and Rinku Murgai.

All the presenters are young members of the profession completing, or having recently completed, their PhDs. The papers and presentations were all excellent, with the award for the best paper presented to Rinku Murgai.

Learning Workshop on Economic Analysis of Food Security Policy

The workshop organized and chaired by Dan Sumner (UC-Davis) for last Saturday, August 12, was a huge success. It was well attended and participated by almost 50 people working on different fields of economics. The workshop began with an introductory lecture on basic food security issues by Professor D. Gale Johnson (University of Chicago). Ric Barichello (UBC) discussed macroeconomic issues vis-a-vis food security issues, using Indonesia as the main example. Julian Alston (UC-Davis) talked on the effects of agricultural research and development policies on food security, particularly those related to intellectual property and biotechnology. Dan Sumner analyzed the role of agricultural commodity and trade policy (particularly trade restrictions) in food security. Each lecture was opened with well-articulated definitions of food security, setting the platform on which the whole discussion was based. A general list of (types

of) agricultural policies and some of their effects were also discussed. While each lecture demonstrated the breadth and depth of the lecturers' expertise, the barrage of notable comments from the audience showed their enthusiastic interest on the topic of food security. These queries/comments touched on the threat of AIDS to food security, especially in Africa; the effect of WTO agreements on food security in developing countries; the role of politics and markets in setting food security goals and objectives; the significance of public-private sector balance in agricultural R&D efforts/thrusts; the contribution of food security (nutrition) to economic growth, among others. Overall, the whole session was a worthwhile learning experience, even for professionals who may perhaps think they have grasped the full range of issues related to food security.

Richard L. Meyer, CowBell Editor for this Conference

Richard L. Meyer received his B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota, and the M.S. and PhD degrees in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. He joined The Ohio State University in 1970 and has been University Director of International Programs and Director of the Rural Finance Program. He won the OSU Distinguished International Faculty Member Award and the Distinguished Policy Award of the American Agricultural Economics Association. He is a

member of the Editorial Advisory Board for *Agricultural Economics*. He has published widely on topics of agricultural and microfinance in developing countries. His latest publication is an Oxford University Press book with Geetha Nagarajan entitled *Rural Financial Markets in Asia: Policies, Paradigms, and Performance*. He is married to Carol and they have two grown children

Mini-Symposium Honoring Professor Carl K. Eicher

Professor Carl K. Eicher, University Distinguished Professor, recently retired from Michigan State University after 39 years of service. Professor Eicher earned a Ph.D. from Harvard, and B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University. During his career, he has specialized in African development, devoting himself to African students and to strengthening African universities and research institutions. To honor Professor Eicher and his work, a mini-symposium was held on Saturday, August 12. The topic of the symposium was „Strengthening Human and Institutional Capital to Support Rural Development in Africa: What Have We Learned and What are the Challenges?“ and featured papers and discussion by a number of Professor Eicher's former students and colleagues.

The symposium focused on what we have learned as a profession about the approaches needed to strengthen human and institutional capital to foster agriculture-led economic growth in Africa over the next 40 years. During that period, African agriculture will face the daunting

challenge of generating employment, income, and food for a rapidly growing population, while doing so in an environmentally friendly way that will preclude simple reliance on the expansion of cultivated area, as in the past. Professor Eicher has devoted most of his career to these issues.

Specific themes addressed during the symposium were:

- The role of the African university in supporting agricultural transformation and economic development (Eric Tollens, Catholic University of Louvain)
- Strengthening agricultural research, extension, and policy analysis (Isaac Minde, Coordinator, ECAPAPA, Uganda, and Akin Adesina, Rockefeller Foundation; Discussant: Doyle Baker, FAO)
- What's the role of cooperation from the North? (Derek Byerlee, World Bank, and Lane Holdcroft, retired from USAID; Discussant: Edouard Tapsoba, FAO)

IAAE and the July 21-22, 2000 FAO-NGO Regional Consultant, preceding the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, Porto, Portugal

The IAAE was represented by Professor Antonio Pinheiro, Evora University, Portugal. Wide ranging discussions about food safety, multifunctional character and land, and the follow-up to the World Food Summit took place.

These spilled over also into the question of equity in world markets. Professor Pinheiro reports that the social and ethical approaches tended to obscure a rigorous economic analysis.

2003 International Conference of Agricultural Economists

The Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa confirms its enthusiastic willingness and ability to host the 2003 conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in Durban, South Africa. We hereby extend an invitation to all IAAE members to attend this event.

The year 2003 marks the 25th meeting of the IAAE. The South African members of the Association are proud to host this landmark conference to be held in the city of Durban on the East Coast of South Africa. This exciting port city is mecca for surfers from around the world and the warm Indian Ocean waters allow year round swimming. Durban also boasts world class conference facilities and accommodations to suit every taste and budget. It is the perfect venue where agricultural economists from throughout Africa can welcome their counterparts from the other parts of the developing world, and from the developed countries, to debate contemporary issues.

The conference site is the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Durban "where Africa and the world meet". This world-class facility has hosted many successful international conferences and meetings since January 1998. These include the World Non-Aligned Movement, heads of state of the Commonwealth, 14 professional association meetings and the most recent important World Aids Conference. Furthermore the venue has already been booked for another 22 international events until 2003. The ICC is located near Durban's central business district, minutes from hotels and beaches and just 15 minutes from the Durban International Airport

with direct flights to and from most parts of Europe and the East.

Home to more than a million inhabitants of mixed origin, Durban is a city of great cultural diversity where you can watch a Zulu war dance, an Indian fire walking ceremony, and a world premier ballet and all on the same day!

Durban is also an ideal base from which to explore the province of Kwazulu-Natal or the rest of Southern Africa. In less than 2 hours you can be on Safari at a game reserve or hiking and trout fishing in the Drakensberg Mountains. Some of the major agricultural producing areas, home to smallholder agriculture and commercial farming, are also within a very short distance from Durban.

Hosting the conference in South Africa will give agricultural economists the opportunity to experience post-apartheid South Africa for the first time. South Africa, and for that matter most of southern Africa, is still battling with important issues related to smallholder agriculture, land reform, rural poverty and intra regional agricultural trade. It is our hope that this conference will again bring attention to the specific problems and issues of Sub-Saharan Africa.

We hope to see you in Durban in 2003.

South African members of IAAE:

Tommy Fenyes, Country Representative,

Gerald Ortmann, President, Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa

ANNOUNCING the Xth CONGRESS of the EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS (EAAE) 25 – 28 AUGUST 2002 In ZARAGOZA, SPAIN

THEME : EXPLORING DIVERSITY IN THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

The congress will provide an opportunity for researchers to present papers dealing with any part of the agri-food system, from agricultural production through food consumption. The Congress will be open to many different topics, such as natural resource analysis, agribusiness strategies, agri food marketing, trade, new information technologies and consumer concerns, just to mention some of them. It tries to select the best papers from the wide interests of our agricultural economics professions in an open context.

It will try to emphasize the European experiences but is also open to analyses related to other territories. Other related international and national European agricultural economics associations will be present and explain the latest views and insights of their activities.

For more information, go to the web page of the European Association of Agricultural Economists

www.eaa.org

and check the Congress News under the activities of the Association.

Von Braun turns to the girl and says, “My dear, I have already achieved many things. You have so many promising years ahead of you. You may become a brilliant scientist and make a discovery that will save mankind. Save yourself. Take a chute and jump”!!

“Calm down Herr Professor,” she said. “There is no problem. Pingali just jumped out with my backpack!”

