

C O W B E L L

XXV International Conference of Agricultural Economists, August 16-22, 2003, Durban, South Africa



CONFERENCE BULLETIN



Issue#2

18 August 2003

Address by Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs at the International Association for Agricultural Economists, 17 August 2003

Chairperson, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This conference could not have come at a better time to South Africa. I am convinced that the intellectual capacity gathered here today can make a great contribution to the resolution of the complex challenges of inequitable development in the world today. The developing world is still grappling with issues of food insecurity while the main concern of the populations of the developed countries today is food safety.

The critical question that we should always ask ourselves is whether we will be able to strike the necessary balance between these two concerns such that none receives more priority than the other.

Food security issues continue to occupy centre stage in Southern, and indeed most of Africa. In this new world order and with ever increasing demands on the agricultural sector, it is important to note that entitlement to food is a fundamental right of every person, irrespective of nationality or status, and is synonymous with the right to life.

The entitlement approach to poverty alleviation poses a challenge to the agricultural economics profession for deeper analysis on the cause of food insecurity and the solution thereof.

It is my belief that professionals in the field of agricultural economics should guide governments on the following:

- What it means for a country to develop a food and agricultural strategy?
- How does a country go about developing a strategy?
- What should be the objectives?
- What lessons can be learnt from other countries and the lessons learnt through effective techniques of trial and error?

Each of these questions must be addressed analytically to distinguish a set of answers that will form the actual building blocks of a country's food policy.

The conference is therefore challenged to redefine the parameters for an effective food and agricultural policy that will ensure the analysis of the hunger and poverty problems explicitly through the food sector, through recognizing these linkages within the food sector from the agricultural sector and to the food consumption endpoint. This policy approach, apart from its central focus on food markets, provides the ease with which macroeconomic influences, especially via the budget and macro price policy, can be linked to the hunger problem.

Developmental issues have assumed a more prominent role in the current round of multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO. South Africa is engaging in the negotiations with its regional partners, SACU and

SADC, as part of the Africa Group and as a member of the Cairns Group. In the Cairns Group, a group of strong agricultural exporters of which the majority are developing countries, developmental issues have grown substantially in importance. Cairns Group positions are reconcilable with positions of the Africa Group with only a few differences in the area of market access.

Progress in the Doha Development Round has been very disappointing to date with the important deadline for the establishment of modalities being missed by the end of March this year.

For South Africa, the key objectives in the negotiations are as follows:

- Substantial reduction with a view to elimination of domestic support
- To achieve a substantial improvement of market access for all South African agricultural products with export potential;
- Elimination of all export subsidies (including subsidies under export credits) over the shortest period of time possible.
- South Africa's further commitment in the area of market access (tariffs, tariff quotas) should be preconditioned by a clear commitment by developed countries to reduce trade and production distorting subsidies (domestic support and all forms of export subsidies).

South Africa views the efforts by the chair of the negotiations, ambassador Stuart Harbinson, as a good basis for negotiations.

Our concern, however, is that the proposals on modalities by Ambassador Harbinson are not ambitious enough and will leave the current situation relating to trade and production distorting support unchanged for the next 4-5 years. South Africa is seeking faster, real differences in distorting supports that will enhance not only our development efforts but also that of the African continent.

As we proceed towards Cancun a breakthrough in Agriculture remains the determining factor for the other negotiation elements namely the Singapore and the NAMA. All the breakthroughs here will have a positive impact on NEPAD.

IAAE COUNCIL MEETINGS

AGENDA

18 AND 21 AUGUST 2003

MONDAY, 18 AUGUST 2003, 17:30 Hours

1. Approval of Minutes XXIV ICAE Council Meeting in Berlin
2. Reports
 - a. President: **Joachim von Braun**
 - b. South African Organizing Committee: **Gerhard Coetzee**
 - c. Vice President Program: **David Colman**
 - d. Editor-in-Chief, *Agricultural Economics*: **Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel**
 - e. President Elect: **Prabhu Pingali**
 - f. Web Site Coordinator – **Roley Piggott**
 - g. Secretary-Treasurer: **Walt Armbruster**
3. Report of the Nominating Committee: Prabhu Pingali
4. Preparations for the XXVI ICAE, 2006, Brisbane, Australia: Roley Piggott
5. Preparations for the XXVII ICAE, 2009

THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2003, 17:30 Hours

6. Election of Officers, 2004-2006
7. Confirmation of President, 2004-2006
8. Honorary Life Members:
 - S Report: Joachim von Braun
 - S Ratification by Council
9. Date and Place of the XXVII ICAE 2009 Conference
 - S Council Preference
10. Business Arising from 18 August 2003
11. Other Business
12. Appreciation

First Meeting	Monday	18 August 2003	17H30	Room 3C
Second Meeting	Thursday	21 August 2003	17H30	Hall 2CDE

Country/Area Representatives

Nestor Rene Ahoyo Adjovi	Benin
Sidibe Amandou	Burkina Faso
Xiji An	China (Mainland)
Kweku Andah	Ghana
Paulo Fernando Araujo	Brazil
Solomon Bellete	Ethiopia
Rene Benalcazar	Equador
Jean-Marc Boussard	France
Lars Brink	Canada
Alessandro Corsi	Italy
Nikolai Demjaneko	Ukraine
Harbinderjit Singh Dillon	Indonesia
Raimundas Duzinskas	Lithuania
T I Fenyés	South Africa
Csaba Forgacs	Hungary
Dinu Gavrilescu	Romania
Ahmed Ahmed Goulei	Egypt
Osman A Hakim	Sudan
Agnar Hegrenes	Norway
Julio Hernandez-Estrada	Mexico
Tadeusz Hunek	Poland

Theodora Hyuha	Uganda
Anthony E Ikpi	Nigeria
Youichi Izumida	Japan
Yoav Kislev	Israel
Soren Kjeldsen-Kragh	Denmark
Ulrich Koester	Germany
Egnonto M Koffi-Tesso	Togo
Valdek Loko	Estonia
Glenn T Magagula	Swaziland
Laurent Martens	Belgium
Charles S Mataya	Malawi
Alan Matthews	Ireland
John P Mc Inerney	United Kingdom
Eduardo Mendoza	Venezuela
Mostafa Mohajerani	Iran
Noureddin H Mona	Syria
Firmino Mucavele	Mozambique
Eugenia Muchnik	Chile
Godfrey Mudimu	Zimbabwe
Faustin Mwape	Zambia
Zoran Njegovan	Yugoslavia, Rep of

George Norton	Usa
Willis Oluoch-Kosura	Kenya
Carlisle A Pemberton	Trinidad-Tobago
Roley Piggott	Australia
Antonio Pinheiro	Portugal
Eva Rabinowicz	Sweden
Allan Neville Rae	New Zealand
Peter Rieder	Switzerland
Carlos Alberto Rossi	Argentina
Gustavo E Sain	Costa Rica
Pedro R Sandoval	Philippines
M A Sattar Mandal	Bangladesh

Hassan Serghini	Morocco
Eugenia Serova	Russia
Benchapun	Thailand
Timo Sipilainen	Finland
Bai-Young Sung	Korea, Rep of
Boubaker T Thabet	Tunisia
A Vaidyanathan	India
Aad Van Tilburg	Netherlands
Consuelo Varela-Ortega	Spain
Victor R Vinas-Nicolas	Dominican Republic
Fahri Yavuz	Turkey

Past Presidents

The Constitution of the International Association of Agricultural Economists was first approved with the first slate of officers elected in 1934. Prior to this, Leonard K. Elmhirst at the first conference and George F. Warren of Cornell University at the second provided the leadership and chairmanship of the Conferences.

Founder President

Leonard K. Elmhirst, U.K. 1958-1974

Presidents

Leonard Knight Elmhirst, U.K. 1934-1958

Sherman E. Johnson, USA 1958-1961

Nils Westermarck, Finland 1961-1964

1964-1967

1967-1970

Samar R. Sen, India 1970-1973

1973-1976

Dennis K. Britton, U.K. 1976-1979

Theodor J. Dams, Germany 1979-1982

Glenn L. Johnson, USA 1982-1985

Michel Petit, France 1985-1988

John W. Longworth, Australia 1988-1991

Csaba Csaki, Hungary 1991-1994

Robert L. Thompson, USA 1994-1997

Douglas D. Hedley, Canada 1997-2000

Joachim von Braun, Germany 2000-2003

IAAE 2009 – Where?

The IAAE Executive Committee would like to seek “expressions of interest” from countries interested in hosting the IAAE meeting in 2009.

Please contact Prabhu Pingali, President (Elect), IAAE.

Members Noticeboard

The last pages of the daily COWBELL is the place for exchanging ideas, distributing information and communicating with members. If you want to organize an Ad-hoc discussion group or reunions or communicate other things to the conference attendants, just let us know and it will be published in the next COWBELL!!

Leave your notices for the COWBELL with your name and your hotel room and phone number at the IAAE Office (Room 24B) by noon of the day before publication.

Notice to all Members

Conference participants, please check your membership records (including address, telephone numbers, email address, etc.) with the IAAE membership desk (in the registration area) from Saturday (16 August) through Thursday (21 August). The preferred way to check the accuracy of records is on-line at: <http://www.iaae-agecon.org>. You can make corrections and submit the changes (which will be updated automatically).

Notice

Airport Transfers

Please be reminded that return Airport Transfers will only be available until Saturday 23 August 2003. Should you wish to make alternative arrangements, please see Michelle at the Travel/Tours desk.

Notice

Conference Questionnaire

It is important for the organisers of the next IAAE that the 2003 organising committee hand over as much information as possible. We cannot do that without your assistance. Please complete the questionnaire and return to the Registration Desk – a lucky draw will take place at the end of the conference for all those who submit their questionnaires.

Notice

All SAA Travellers

If you have travelled to the conference on SAA, please give a photostat copy of your flight ticket to Michelle at the Travel/Tours desk in order to qualify for a prize. The draw will be announced during the conference.

Notice

Technical Tours

The Tours desk will be open from Monday 08h00 until Tuesday 13h00. There are still some seats available on the Technical Tours. We have also arranged a scenic tour to Oribi Gorge for those who could not book on one of the Technical Tours or would like to change their tour:

The spectacular Oribi Gorge is one of the Hibiscus Coast's best-known beauty spots. The gorge was formed over millions of years as the Mzimkulwana river flowed over the flat land surface and picked out fractures in the rock, gradually eroding them away and cutting deep into the earth's crust. Due to its inaccessibility, the gorge has remained virtually untouched by man and has more than 500 plant species. It contains a wealth of semi-deciduous forests criss-crossed with antelope paths and is home to 255 bird species and numerous small mammals, including the rare samango monkeys. There are several walking trails between 1km and 9 km in length, offering walkers a chance to explore the gorge's magnificent grassland and forest sections.

Remember to bring some spending money for real African Arts and Crafts.

Notice

Lunch Vouchers

Lunch vouchers are still available at the Registration Desk at a cost of US\$10

Notice

Conference Dinner

Gather your friends together and book your seat or a table of 10 for the Conference Dinner by presenting your Conference Dinner Voucher, which you will receive at registration, at the Conference Dinner desk on Tuesday and Wednesday.

If you do not book your seat by 17h00 on Wednesday, you will be seated at the organisers discretion.

The dress for the dinner is business attire or traditional dress.

The voucher for the Conference Dinner has been included in your registration envelope

Joke of the Day

A mathematician, an accountant and an economist apply for the same job.

The interviewer calls in the mathematician and asks "What do two plus two equal?" The mathematician replies "Four." The interviewer asks "Four, exactly?" The mathematician looks at the interviewer incredulously and says "Yes, four, exactly."

Then the interviewer calls in the accountant and asks the same question "What do two plus two equal?"

The accountant says "On average, four - give or take ten percent, but on average, four."

Then the interviewer calls in the economist and poses the same question "What do two plus two equal?"

The economist gets up, locks the door, closes the shade, sits down next to the interviewer and says "What do you want it to equal?"

South African Trivia

Currently, South Africa is the only country in the world which has **voluntarily dismantled** its nuclear arsenal.

Durban is the largest port in Africa and the ninth largest in the world.

South Africa is home to more kinds of mammals than **North and South America combined**; or Europe and Asia together.

Home to one of the **world's 6 floral kingdoms**, South Africa has one-tenth (23 200) of the world's flowering plants, of which nearly 19 000 are endemic, making it the richest region in the world in terms of species to area - 1.7 times richer even than Brazil.

Source: www.insanetree.com

Recommended South African Books

South African Fiction

While hardly a new title, J.M. Coetzee's **Disgrace** (R97.00) won the Booker prize in 1999, becoming only the second author to be awarded this prestigious prize twice.

Newer on the literary scene is Michiel Heyens, a lecturer in the Department of English at Stellenbosch University, with **Children's Day** (R118.00), a moving look at the coming of age of a young boy in rural South Africa.

And if you are looking for a wonderfully warm read, look no further than Roger Webster's **At the Fireside Vol 1&2** (R112.00 & R124.00) for tales & legends from South Africa.

All the books are available at Exclusive Books (Durban International Airport).

Notice

Meeting of Nigerian Delegates

Nigerians attending this conference are invited to a short meeting scheduled as follows:

Place: Room 11AB

Date: 18 August 2003, Monday

Time: 10h40 prompt

Please be there and on time.

Notice

WISCONSIN DINNER

Alumni and friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison will meet for dinner at 7h00 pm on Tuesday, August 19 at the THE FISH COMPANY. The restaurant is at Kings Battery (the harbour). This is a 10-minute taxi ride from the Hilton. Contact Dan Bromley, Hilton, room 622.

Quotable Quotes

Prof GF Warren, Cornell University in his Opening Address at the Second International Conference of Agricultural Economists on the need for a Second Conference:

“Not having settled all the economic problems of agriculture, the persons present voted to hold another conference ...”

HCM Case, University of Illinois and President of the American Farm Economics Association in his Welcoming Address at the Second International Conference of Agricultural Economists on his experience at the First Conference:

“We found that our agricultural problems have much in common and that we could discuss them in amiable disagreement as well as agreement, and as soon as the conference broke up we could forget our serious thoughts in that wonderful game known as cricket

JR Raeburn from Oxford (1947 Conference at Dartington Hall):

“ I think it was Voltaire who said: ‘Marriage sometimes turns out to be not good, but celibacy is always bad.’ We seem to have been coming to the conclusion that in both marriage and celibacy there are at times, and in certain circumstances, both advantages and disadvantages, and that the same is true of the free price mechanism as compared to the controlled”

LJ Norton, University of Illinois, read from an article in the (then) Manchester Guardian on the ‘developments in connection with the world trade charter’ at the 1947 Conference. A part of what he read goes as follows:

“ ... From one view the charter may seem a solid monument of economic liberalism, and from another it is like a fisherman’s net, through whose skillfully designed meshes almost every illiberal, protectionist practice is deliberately permitted to slip. Even if ... the Charter pronounces against preferences, it leaves loopholes for every practice of American and British agricultural protectionism. It makes the best of both worlds with a vengeance ...”

Substitute the EU for Britain, and this could be an epitaph for the 1994 Agreement on Agriculture, and undoubtedly a prediction of the outcome (if any) of the Doha Round!

Election for the IAAE Executive Committee

During the IAAE Council Meeting on Thursday an election will be held for the following positions on the Executive Committee for 2003-2006:

- President (elect)
- Vice-president (Program)
- Members at large (3)

Please submit any nomination you have to any of the following members of the IAAE nominations committee:

- Prabhu Pingali (Chair)
- Donald Maclaren
- Vasant Gandih
- Issac Minde
- Alberto Valdes
- Jock Anderson
- Ulrich Koester
- Dan Bromley

Fund for the International Conference Meeting

The Board members of the Fund for the International Conference will assemble outside Area C immediately after lunch on Monday, August 18. Weather permitting, we will meet at an outside table across from the entrance to Hall 2 CDE.

Richard Meyer