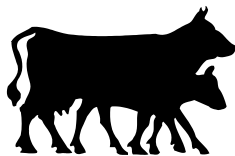




## The XXVII International Conference of Agricultural Economists

16 – 22 August 2009

Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, China



# COWBELL



Issues # 4 & 5

Thursday 20 August 2009



## The new landscape of global agriculture – explanation of the theme

**Johann Kirsten, Vice-President Programme**

When I proposed the conference theme of “*The New Landscape of Global Agriculture*” at the IAAE executive meeting in August 2007 there were already strong indications and evidence that the agricultural and food system as well as the rural areas across the world are certainly experiencing major change. Increased urbanisation and the increased affluence in emerging economies combined with the demand for agricultural commodities for biofuels have already changed the landscape of global agricultural and food systems as we used to know it. At that stage nobody anticipated the major changes in global markets that would follow: first the food price crisis and then global

financial crisis. The theme of this 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Agricultural Economists can therefore not be more appropriate.

This changing nature of agricultural and food systems globally and the increasingly complex matters we as agricultural and resource economists have to deal with requires a shift in paradigms in the agricultural economics discipline if we as agricultural economists want to remain relevant and not to become extinct, as Joachim von Braun and Bruce Gardner challenged us in 2003. For this reason I have deliberately invited key note speakers for our plenary sessions that are not members of our

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Xiande Li, Nick Vink, Ziping Wu, Linxiu Zhang, Yifu Zhao (Editors)

Send announcements, etc to Nick Vink: [nv@sun.ac.za](mailto:nv@sun.ac.za) or bring to the Conference Office at Room 306 of the ICC

agricultural economics discipline and do not normally attend our meetings. I am hoping that their participation at this year's conference will broaden our horizons and contribute to our ability to deal with the more complex challenges facing our discipline. I want to use this opportunity to thank the following persons outside our agricultural economics fraternity who accepted my invitation to present key note papers at our conference:

- Peter Davis, UK Competition Commission, United Kingdom
- Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University, USA
- Giles Allaire, INRA, France
- Anastasios Xepapadeas, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece
- Robert Jensen, UCLA School of Public Affairs, USA

I wish you all a very fruitful and enjoyable conference here in Beijing.

## Past conference themes

1955	The Implications of Technical Change in Agriculture
1958	Agriculture and its Terms of Trade
1961	
1964	Disparities in the Pace and Form of Agricultural and Rural Development
1967	The Economist and Farm People in a Rapidly Changing World
1970	Policies, Planning and Management for Agricultural Development
1973	The Future of Agriculture: Technology, Policies and Adjustment
1976	Decision-making and Agriculture
1979	Rural Change: the Challenge for Agricultural Economists
1982	Growth and Equity in Agricultural Development
1985	Agriculture in a Turbulent World Economy
1988	Agriculture and Governments in an Interdependent World
1991	Sustainable Agriculture Development: The Role of International Cooperation
1994	Agriculture Competitiveness: Market Forces and Policy Choice
1997	Food Security, Diversification and Resource Management: Refocusing the Role of Agriculture
2000	Tomorrow's Agriculture: Incentives, Institutions Infrastructure and Innovations
2003	Reshaping Agriculture's contributions to Society
2006	Contributions of Agricultural Economics to Critical Policy Issues

## China and the IAAE: a longstanding relationship

**The following is an extract from the Preface to Longworth, John W (Ed.), 1989. *China's rural development miracle with international comparisons* (Papers presented at an International Symposium held at Beijing, China 25-29 October, 1987) and was written by John Longworth (President 1988-91)**

The only person from China to attend the first meeting of the IAAE in 1929 was Mr. F. Dickinson who gave his address as West China Union University, Sczechum (sic). Dickinson was one of a small band of agricultural economists who visited

and worked in China before World War II. An especially important link was forged between Cornell University in the USA and several Chinese agriculture schools of which the College of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Nanking

was the most important. The Cornell connection can be traced to the efforts of J.L. Buck in 1912. During the later part of the 1920s, a significant number of young Chinese scholars went to Cornell to further their studies. Indeed, the names of fifteen Chinese appear on the list of participants for the second IAAE Conference held at Cornell in 1930. One member of this group, Paul Hsu, presented a paper entitled 'Rural Credit in China'.

In 1922, a young Chinese scholar, C.C. Chang (Zhang Xinyi), went to Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames to study animal husbandry. He graduated from Iowa in 1925 and moved to Cornell to study agricultural economics and farm management under George F. Warren. He graduated with a MS degree in 1926. Chang has continued to play a major role in bridging the gap between East and West ever since. The records of the IAAE show that Chang was the IAAE Country Correspondent for China in December 1932 and he is officially recorded as holding this position throughout the 1930s.

Chang set sail from China in mid 1933 to attend the third international conference of the IAAE to be held in Germany. While he was on the high seas, the conference was cancelled due to the political situation in Germany. Nevertheless, he proceeded to Berlin where he met with Max Sering (who was Vice-President of the IAAE at the time), George F. Warren, Hans Zorner, von Dietze, O.H. Larsen, Max Rolfes, Charles Stuart, A.B. Lewis, J.L. Buck and others. After travelling through Denmark, the Netherlands and France, Chang went to the United Kingdom and visited Dartington Hall, the 'home' of IAAE, and met with Jock Currie. According to Chang, he proposed to the members of IAAE whom he met while in Europe in 1933, that the IAAE should hold a conference in China. He had to wait until 1987, some 54 years later, for his idea to become a reality.

Eventually, the third conference of the IAAE was held at Bad Eilsen, Germany in 1934 and although the membership list included fifteen Chinese members at that time, it was not possible for any Chinese to participate. Nevertheless, at the Council meeting held during the 1934 conference a formal invitation from the Chinese Government for the IAAE to hold a meeting in China was discussed. Subsequently, the well known veteran American agricultural economist, Henry C. Taylor, who was working in Rome at the time, wrote to Leonard K. Elmhirst, the President of IAAE, strongly supporting the idea that IAAE organize a party of 6 to 12 people

to go to China for a series of fact finding field-trips which would culminate in an 'All China Conference on agricultural economics or rural life or rural reconstruction'.

During the 1930s, a number of agricultural economists both from the USA and from Europe did visit and lecture in China. These included S. Warren who visited Nanking (1930-33), A.B. Lewis (1933-36), Glen Hedlund (1936-37) and John R. Raeburn (1936-37). Nevertheless, these were individual efforts and it was not possible to organize a professional conference of the IAAE in China during the 1930s.

The fourth international conference of IAAE was held in Scotland in 1936 but no Chinese attended. However, Poa-San-Ou from Kwangsi did attend the fifth conference held in Canada in 1938. At the sixth conference held at Dartington Hall, England in 1947, S.C. Lee from the National Agricultural Economics Research Institute, College of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Nanking, played a prominent part. There is no record of any Chinese attending the IAAE conferences in 1949 (Italy) and 1952 (USA) but three people from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) did attend the 1955 conference (Finland). It was to be another 24 years, however, before mainland Chinese colleagues were again able to participate in an IAAE conference.

In 1978, Glenn Johnson, who was then IAAE Vice-President (Program), met Wu Tian-xi, a Chinese agricultural economist working in the FAO in Rome. Johnson suggested that China should send some agricultural economists to participate in the international conference being planned for Banff, Canada in August 1979. As a result, five Chinese did join the IAAE conference in 1979. They were Zhan Wu, An Xi-ji, Jian Nan-fang, Shen Da-zhun and Wan Jianzhong.

During the 1979 meetings, the Chinese invited the incoming President (Theodor Dams) and two other members of the IAAE Executive to visit China. The aim was to reach agreement about the holding of an IAAE conference in China. In 1980 Dams, Jim Hildreth and Kazushi Ohkawa visited Beijing for discussions with Zhan Wu, C.C. Chang, Yan Rui-zhen, An Xi-ji and others. It was agreed that a conference be organized to bring members of the IAAE and Chinese agricultural economists together to discuss mutual problems. This initiative was followed up by Glenn Johnson who visited Beijing in October 1981. Despite the goodwill expressed on both sides, no-one from the PRC was able to attend

the 1982 international meetings of the IAAE in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Three agricultural economists from the PRC (Wu Qun-gan, Yan Rui-zhen and Luo Hanxian) participated actively in the 1985 conference in Malaga, Spain. They reiterated their willingness to work towards holding an IAAE meeting in China. The Executive of the IAAE requested Glenn Johnson and John Longworth to investigate and, if possible, organize a symposium in China. Longworth visited Beijing in June 1986 and the basic outline of a joint symposium was agreed upon. Longworth met with many Chinese agricultural economists, including An Xi-ji and Yan Rui-zhen, all of whom strongly supported the proposal. In July 1986, Yan Rui-zhen visited the USA and met with Johnson to discuss the proposal further. In August 1986, IAAE members were notified of the intention to hold a small international symposium in China in mid to late 1987. Participants were to be selected on the basis of paper proposals (as evidenced by abstracts) to be submitted by the end of 1986.

In April 1987, Johnson and Longworth met with Chinese colleagues in Beijing to select the participants and to finalize the agreement covering the joint symposium. Many Chinese participated in these negotiations, including Lu Wen, Li Renfeng, An Xi-ji and Yan Rui-zhen. Eventually, it was decided that the symposium would be held over four days and would involve the presentation of fifty papers. Half the papers would be contributed by members of the IAAE and half by members of the Chinese Association of Agricultural Economists. The meetings would be held under the auspices of the Chinese Association of Agricultural Science Societies (CAASS).

The meetings were held at a hotel in the village of Huairou located 50 km north of the centre of Beijing during the period 25-29 October, 1987. One of the most active participants in the symposium was C.C. Chang who had waited almost five decades to see his proposal of the early 1930s come to fruition.



Theodore K. Dams (President, IAAE 1979-82), C. C. Chang (Zhang Xinyi), John W Longworth (President, IAAE 1988-91), Glenn L Johnson (President, IAAE 1982-85) and Michel Petit (President, IAAE 1985-88)

To celebrate the 27th IAAE conference being held in Beijing, here is a Chinese translation of the article above

## 中国和国际农经学会（IAAE）：一个长期的关系

以下是约翰·朗沃思（John Longworth）的论文“国际比较下的中国农村发展奇迹”序言的摘要（该文曾提交 1987 年 10 月 25-29 日在北京举办的国际研讨会）。约翰于 1988-1991 年担任国际农经学会主席。

在 1929 年的国际农经学会会议上，来自中国的唯一参会人是弗·狄金森先生，他代表中国四川大学农学院在会议上发言。狄金森是少数一些于第二次世界大战前来中国访问并留下来工作的农业经济学家之一。尤其重要的是，他建立了美国康奈尔大学与中国几所农业院校的联系，其中最重要的是与金陵大学农学院间的交流关系。与康奈尔的联系可追溯到 1912 年 J.L. Buck（卜凯）的努力。20 世纪 20 年代后半期，大批中国奖学金获得者前往康奈尔大学深造。事实上，15 个中国人的名字出现在 1930 年在康奈尔举办的第二届国际农经大会的参会名单上，其中 Paul Hsu，提交了一篇标题为“中国农村信用”的论文。

1922 年，一位中国年轻的奖学金获得者 C. C. Chang（张心一）远赴爱荷华州立农学院攻读畜牧专业，他于 1925 年毕业并考取康奈尔大学，在乔治·沃伦指导下学习农业经济与农场管理。1926 年，获得硕士学位。从那时起，张心一一直致力于缩小东西方学术差距，并起到重要的桥梁作用。国际农经学会的档案记录表明，1932 年 12 月张心一成为了中国与国际农经学会的联络员，20 世纪 30 年代的正式记录一直记载着他担当了这个职位。

1933 年年中，张心一从中国起程去德国参加第三届国际农经大会。当他还行进在公海时，会议因为德国政治局势而被取消了。尽管如此，他依然来到柏林，在那他会见了 Max S ering（时任国际农经学会副主席）、乔治·沃伦，Hans Zorner, von Dietze, O.H. 拉森，Max Rolfes, Charles Stuart, A.B. Lewis, J.L. Buck 和其他人。旅行丹麦、荷兰和法国后，他来到国际农经学会的发祥地——英国达灵顿堂，并拜会了约克·柯里。旅欧期间，他向国际农经学会的会员们建议，国际农经学会会议应该在中国举办。54 年之后，直到 1987 年才实现他的夙愿。

1934 年第三届国际农经学会会议在德国的 Bad Eilsen 举行，尽管在那个时候成员名单中包括 15 名中国成员，但它不可能让中国人参加。然而，1934 在理事会会议期间，对中国政府举行国际农经学会会议的正式邀请进行了讨论。随后，正在罗马工作的美国著名资深农业经济学家亨利·泰勒，写信给国际农经学会主席 Leonard K. Elmhirst，坚决支持国际农经学会组织一次 6 至 12 人小组去中国进行一系列实地调查的想法，推动了人们对召开中国农业经济、农村生活和农村重建会议的高潮。

20 世纪 30 年代，一些来自美国和欧洲的农业经济学家都来到中国访问和授课。这些人中包括来南京访问的 S. 沃伦（1930-1933 年），A.B. 刘易斯（1933-1936 年），格伦赫德兰（1936-1937 年）和 John R. Raeburn（1936-1937 年）。然而，这些都是个人的努力，还不足以能在 20 世纪 30 年代在中国举办一个国际农经学会的专业会议。

第四届国际农经学会会议于 1936 年在苏格兰举行，但没有中国人出席。然而，来自广西的巫宝三参加了 1938 年在加拿大举行的第五届会议。1947 年在英格兰达灵顿堂举行的第六届会议，来自金陵大学农学院国家农业经济研究所的 S.C. Lee，发挥了重要角色。没有任何记录显示中国人出席于 1949 年（意大利）和 1952 年（美国）举行的国际农经学会会议，

但有 3 名来自中华人民共和国的人员参加了 1955 年的会议（芬兰）。然而，中国大陆的同仁们能再次参加国际农经学会会议，却在 24 年后了。

1978 年，国际农业经济学家学会副主席格伦·约翰逊会见了在罗马粮农组织工作的中国农业经济学家吴天锡，他建议中国应派一些农业经济学家参加翌年 7 月在加拿大班芙筹办的国际会议。第二年，有五名中国专家参加了国际农经大会，他们是詹武、安希伋、Jian Nan-fang、沈达尊和万建中。

在 1979 年的会议期间，中国邀请即将上任的主席（Theodor Dams）和两位国际农业经济学家学会执委到中国访问。目的是就在中国召开国际农经大会达成协议。1980 年，Dams, Jim Hildreth 和 Kazushi Ohkawa 访问北京，并与詹武、张心一、严瑞珍、安希伋等商讨相关事宜，一致同意组织国际农经学会会员和中国农经学会的会议，共同探讨相互的问题。倡议得到格伦·约翰逊响应，他于 1981 年 10 月到北京访问。尽管双方都表达了美好意愿，但中国没能参加 1982 年在印尼雅加达举办的国际农经大会。

中国的三位农业经济学家（Wu Qun-gan, 严瑞珍、罗涵先）积极参与了 1985 年在西班牙马拉加举办的会议，他们重申在中国举办国际农经学会会议的愿望。国际农经学会执行派格伦·约翰逊和约翰·朗沃思到中国考察，如条件允许将在中国组织一次专门讨论会。1986 年 7 月，朗沃思访问了北京，赞成研讨会的基本框架。朗沃思会见了许多中国农业经济学家，包括安希伋、严瑞珍，他们都强烈支持召开会议的建议。1986 年 7 月，严瑞珍访问了美国并会见约翰逊，进一步讨论了有关提议。同年 8 月，国际农经学会会员们被正式告之将于 1987 年下半年在中国举办一个小型国际研讨会的想法。根据提交截止到 1986 年年底的论文申请（以摘要为依据）选择参会代表。

1987 年 4 月，为了筛选参会者和确定有关研讨会协议条款，约翰逊和朗沃思在北京会见了中国同仁。许多中国学者参与了此次协商，包括卢文、李仁锋、安希伋和严瑞珍。最后确定研讨会会期 4 天，接受 50 篇提交论文。一半论文由国际农经学会会员提交，另一半由中国农经学会会员提交，会议在中国农学会支持下举办。

1987 年 10 月 25-29 日，会议在距北京市中心 50 公里北部的怀柔举行。最活跃的参加者之一就是张心一，为了看到他的提议变成现实，他等待了 50 多年。

（钟钰翻译，李先德校。感谢周诚教授在翻译和核实一些中文人名上提供的帮助）

## Statistics on contributed papers for IAAE 2009

Altogether, 775 papers were submitted by the November 30 2008 deadline. We actually had just over 800 submissions, but there were some redundancies and some authors who only submitted abstracts, thus 775 'real' submissions.

A total of 449 papers were accepted (58% of 775). These authors were informed that their papers had been accepted (oral/visual not specified) on March, 26 2009.

Of the 449 accepted, 212 were initially earmarked for visual and 237 for oral presentation. After the original accept/reject mail to all submitters was sent, some withdrawals/cancellations from accepted authors came in. Papers were shifted from visual to oral sessions to keep the 5\*13 oral sessions full. Authors were informed about the decisions regarding oral or visual presentation on 5 May 2009. Authors had until June 30 2009 to confirm that they would attend by uploading their papers to AgEconSearch.

In the end 235 oral papers and 166 visual papers were uploaded. In other words, of the 449 originally accepted papers, in total 401 were uploaded and included in the programme (52% of all submitted papers). At this moment, after some further cancellations in the last week, we have 230 oral papers on the programme and 168 visual papers.

Country breakdown of contributed paper submissions

The 20-80 rule refers – 20 countries were responsible for 81% of all contributed paper submissions. Figures are however skewed by the fact that the international organisations such as IFPRI, World Bank are reflected as US; FAO as Italy and ILRI, etc as Kenya.

Rank	Country	Number of submissions
1	UNITED STATES (US)	135
2	GERMANY (DE)	99
3	CHINA (CN)	62
4	JAPAN (JP)	43
5	INDIA (IN)	38
6	KENYA (KE)	33
7	SPAIN (ES)	29
8	NETHERLANDS (NL)	28
9	FRANCE (FR)	27
10	UNITED KINGDOM (GB)	22
11	ITALY (IT)	21
12	SOUTH AFRICA (ZA)	20
13	AUSTRALIA (AU)	17
14	BELGIUM (BE)	15
15	IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF (IR)	14
16	ETHIOPIA (ET)	13
17	NIGERIA (NG)	10
18	CANADA (CA)	9
19	HUNGARY (HU)	9
20	FINLAND (FI)	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>652</b>

## From Member to Member

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 a reunion, or communicate other things to the conference attendants, just let us know and it will be published in the next day's CowBell!

Leave your notices for the CowBell with your name at the CowBell desk in the Local Organizing Committee office, room 306 of the ICC, or e-mail it to [nv@sun.ac.za](mailto:nv@sun.ac.za) by **1400 (2pm) of the day before publication**.

### Important Notice

**For those NOT booked for one of the technical tours on Thursday afternoon, lunch will be provided as usual in Conference Hall 1 at 13.00 (use the Lunch ticket provided for the day), and a buffet supper in the same place at 18:00 (use the "Social Event" ticket).**

### AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search is always looking for new groups to contribute papers. Advantages are many, including inclusion in Google and RePEc, higher visibility, and electronic archiving. Please consider suggesting a working paper series, conference, or journal. Stop by the exhibit, or e-mail [aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

### German Participants

German participants at the IAAE Conference are invited to meet on Friday 21st August 2009 at 13:00 in Room 305C for 1/2 hour. Information will be given on the last IAAE Council meeting and views for the upcoming election of new members of the Executive Committee are collected.

Contact Gertrud Buchenrieder  
13691548540; [buchenrieder@iamo.de](mailto:buchenrieder@iamo.de)

### ZEF Drink

Center for Development Research, University of Bonn (Zentrum Fuer Entwicklungsforschung,ZEF) cordially invite current and former students, staff and friends to meet for a **Drink**(Tea、 Beer、 Soft Drink and Cold dishes) on Thursday evening at 21:00 after agriculture tour. Restaurant and location is showed as the below. If you can come, please email Wensheng Wang at [wangwsh@caas.net.cn](mailto:wangwsh@caas.net.cn) ,or call Prof. Yuansheng Jiang on 139 816 181 39. Hope to see you there!

<http://beijing.fantong.com/cate/700012231/> 风雅颂茶楼 Feng Ya Song Tea House(ChenYun Office Building)

## Joint Elsevier/IAAE authors' workshop

**Where:** Room 311

**When:** Friday 21st August 18:00 – 19:00

### Speakers

Colin Poulton, Managing Editor of Food Policy  
Will Masters: Co-Editor of Agricultural Economics

How to prepare a world-class paper for an international scientific Journal

## Nigerian delegates

Nigerian delegates and friends of Nigeria are invited to a short meeting on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August at 12:35 pm in Room 305A.

Convener: T. Olalekan Williams

## IAMO Forum 2010: “Institutions in Transition – Challenges for New Modes of Governance”

**16-18 June 2010 | Halle (Saale), Germany**

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) announces the upcoming IAMO Forum 2010 – IAMO's premier annual conference on agricultural and rural development in Central and Eastern Europe. The IAMO Forum 2010 aims to take stock of current research on institutional change in agriculture and rural areas and the corresponding challenges for new modes of governance. The areas focused on are Central and Eastern Europe and Central and East Asia.

Participants who would like to present papers are invited to submit a full paper in English to [forum2010@iamo.de](mailto:forum2010@iamo.de) by **22 January 2010**. Detailed information will soon be available at <http://forum2010.iamo.de/>

The IAMO Forum 2010 is organized by:

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO)  
Department External Environment for Agriculture and Policy Analysis  
Gertrud Buchenrieder, Judith Möllers, Martin Petrick, Insa Theesfeld and Stefan Wegener

## MACE Conference: Challenges of Education and Innovation 13th and 14th of January 2010 International Green Week, ICC, Berlin (Germany)

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) together with its partners will conduct within the Marie-Curie Programme the Fourth Green Week Scientific Conference titled: Challenges of Education and Innovation on the 13th and 14th of January 2010 at the ICC International Congress Centre in Berlin.

The conference will concentrate on innovation processes in agriculture linked to the spread of knowledge in rural areas. The conference will provide a special forum for early stage researchers to build contacts with their peers from across Europe and leading researchers. Especially young scientists are expected to play an active role at the conference. For further information please refer to the call for papers available on the conference website: <http://www.mace-events.org/greenweek2010/3698-MACE.html>. Submission and registration forms are also available on this website.

## Two New Books from Earthscan, London by IAAE Member K N Ninan from India

**Conserving and Valuing Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity - Economic, Institutional and Social Challenges**  
Price £70

**The Economics of Biodiversity Conservation-Valuation in Tropical Forest Ecosystems** Price £ 55

For orders check [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk) or contact author at: [ninankn@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ninankn@yahoo.co.in)

## Agro-industries for Development – a new book from FAO, UNIDO and IFAD

FAO is announcing the launching this week of the book “Agro-industries for Development”, published by CAB International. Edited by Carlos da Silva (FAO) and a team of professionals from FAO and UNIDO, the book presents contributions from agro-industry specialists, academic experts and UN technical agencies, all addressing strategies and actions required for improving agro-industrial competitiveness in ways that can create income, generate employment and fight poverty in the developing world.

“Agro-industries for Development” highlights the current status and future course of agro-industries in the world and brings attention to the contributions this sector can make to international development. The lead chapter authors are Ralph Christy, Carlos da Silva, Alain de Janvry, Collin Dennis, Spencer Henson, Mark Pftizer, Bill Vorley and John Wilkinson.

## New Journal: China Agricultural Economic Review (CAER)

Following China’s accession to the World Trade Organization, the Chinese economy has become increasingly integrated into the world economy. In particular Chinese agricultural development experiences and research have much to offer for readers world-wide.

**China Agricultural Economic Review (CAER)** is a newly launched quarterly journal published by Emerald Group Publishing in association with **China Agricultural University** and the **Chinese Association of Agricultural Economics (CAAE)**.

Launching its first issue in Autumn 2008, CAER will provide a unique and insightful approach to documenting and disseminating research into the economics of agriculture, natural resources and the environment, and rural development. The journal seeks to address contemporary issues concerning agricultural economics and rural development in China, thus having an impact on China’s agricultural and rural policy-making processes and also on the development of the agricultural economics discipline. Registration and access are available at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/caer>.

CAER will host its first annual conference in Beijing, October 31<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The theme of the 2009 conference is ‘Globalization and China’s Agricultural Development’.

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## INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Search Committee/International Food Policy Research Institute  
c/o Jamie Hechinger  
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## Invitation to host the 29<sup>th</sup> IAAE Conference 2015 in Budapest, Hungary

Organized by the Hungarian Association of Agricultural Economists & Corvinus University, Budapest

#### **Why Hungary?**

- ✓ traditionally strong agricultural economy
- ✓ net exporting position
- ✓ dual farming structures
- ✓ advanced value chains

#### **Agricultural Economists Community**

- ✓ among of the strongest professions in the region,

- ✓ well integrated into international circles of the profession,
- ✓ proven track records in organizing professional agricultural meetings (seminars, conferences)

#### **Support in Organization**

- Wide support to the idea of inviting the world congress by
- ✓ government bodies,
  - ✓ universities,
  - ✓ professional institutions,
  - ✓ private business

[www.asszisztencia.hu/iaae](http://www.asszisztencia.hu/iaae)

Xiande Li, Nick Vink, Ziping Wu, Linxiu Zhang, Yifu Zhao (Editors)

Send announcements, etc to Nick Vink: [nv@sun.ac.za](mailto:nv@sun.ac.za) or bring to the Conference Office at Room 306 of the ICC



## WHERE DO YOU WANT IAAE TO BE IN 2015?

### MILANO IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO BE

Milano would be delighted to be the location of the 2015 IAAE Conference. Milano is at the heart of the most important agricultural and food industry area of Italy, thus making fund raising easy. In 2015, Milano will host World Expo 2015, whose theme is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", thus assuring a perfect framework for the IAAE Conference and synergies with other initiatives. A very convenient venue is available, the Milano Convention Center, fully equipped with the latest technologies and located in the heart of the city (5 min. from Leonardo's Last Supper!). Milano is easy to reach (thousands of international flights per week, including several low-cost companies), and thousands hotel accommodations at all prices are located close to the MCC. Last, Milano is quite close and well connected to Venice, Florence, Rome, etc., for those who wish to visit more of Italy and make even more memorable the Conference experience.



### Jokes of the day

Q: How many Chicago School economists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. If the light bulb needed changing the market would have already done it.

Q: How many economists does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Eight. One to screw it in and seven to hold everything else constant.

Q: How many economists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Irrelevant - the light bulb's preferences are to be taken as given.

Given 1000 economists, there will be 10 theoretical economists with different theories on how to change the light bulb and 990 empirical economists laboring to determine which theory is the \*correct\* one, and everyone will still be in the dark.

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**Definition:** Economics is the painful elaboration of the obvious.

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The dean of admissions at the School of Agriculture was interviewing a prospective student...

"What do you plan to do with a degree in agricultural economics and finance?" the dean asked.

"I dream of making millions of dollars buying futures and options, like my father," the student replied.

The dean was obviously impressed... "Your father made millions of dollars buying and trading cattle?"

"No," replied the applicant... "But he always dreamed of it."

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A farmer gets sent to jail, and his wife is trying to hold the farm together until her husband can get out. She's not, however, very good at farm work, so she writes a letter to him in jail: "Dear sweetheart, I want to plant the potatoes. When is the best time to do it?"

The farmer writes back: "Honey, don't go near that field. That's where all my guns are buried."

But, because he is in jail all of the farmer's mail is censored. So when the sheriff and his deputies read this, they all run out to the farm and dig up the entire potato field looking for guns. After two full days of digging, they don't find one single weapon.

The farmer then writes to his wife: "Honey, now is when you should plant the potatoes."