Brazilian biodiesel: A program for fossil fuel replacement concerned with sustainability

By Daniel Furlan Amaral

The first tests of biodiesel in Brazil started in 1983. In 2005, the success of Brazil’s soybean complex created the conditions that made it possible to start a comprehensive program for the partial replacement of fossil diesel in Brazil – National Program for Production and Use of Biodiesel (PNPB, Programa Nacional de Produção e Uso do Biodiesel). It must be pointed out that the Brazilian biodiesel program is based not only on soybeans, with an 80% share in raw material, but also on the use of beef fats (15%), cottonseed oil (3%) and others, including palm oil, castor oil and oils used in the kitchen.

Between 2005 and 2007, the mixture of biodiesel to fossil diesel used domestically was set at 2% and was voluntary. Currently, the mixture is 5% and is compulsory, a governmental determination that was only implemented after establishing the good quality of the product and getting a guarantee of domestic supply from industrial investments and raw material offer. In 2011, Brazil produced 2.7 million m³ of biodiesel, making it the world’s fourth largest producer after the U.S., Germany and Argentina, and ahead of France.

The third version of biodiesel quality specifications are already in place, one of the strictest in the world. This is intended to
guarantee a superior quality biofuel that is adequate to mix with the new diesel with a sulphur content of 10 ppm, which will be available at service station pumps on January 1, 2013. Finally, there is the perspective of a gradual increase in the compulsory mixture up to a content of 10% in 2020. This will come from implementation of a new regulatory mark for the sector.

The way forward still has challenges, among which are supporting other productive oilseed chains, strengthening applied scientific research and working in international forums for the reduction of tariff and technical barriers to international commerce of the product. Nevertheless, important conquests have already been made in a short time and the potential of the program is very promising.

New members of the Executive

The Council of the IAAE (the last gathering of the Council given the changes to the Constitution that were adopted at the meeting) elected new Office Bearers yesterday evening.

Congratulations to the new President Elect of IAAE, Will Martin and to Walt Armbruster, re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

The new Members - at – Large are Kym Anderson, Stephan von Cramon-Traudabel and Nick Vink

Bio’s: Honorary Life Members

David Colman was the Vice President-Program who organized the program for the 2003 Durban ICAE and served as IAAE President during 2006-2009 for the ICAE in Beijing. David has also led the Fund for the ICAE for this and the Beijing conferences, helping to raise the largest amounts ever to bring developing country participants to the ICAE programs. He has also been at the center of revamping the IAAE structure to bring it into the era of electronic communication and updating the IAAE operating model to comply with new financial and information requirements for nonprofit organizations. In his academic career, David has been Agricultural Economics Department Head and then Head of the School of Economic studies at Manchester University for a total of 17 years. He has been the preeminent economist working on dairy industry issues in the U.K., prolific researcher, international agency and private sector economic advisor, and textbook author.

Malcolm Wegener is best known to IAAE members as Deputy Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the 16th IAAE conference which was held in the Gold Coast Convention Centre, Australia, in August 2006. He was the life and soul of the conference. Malcolm Wegener received his Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree, which included only a basic introduction to agricultural economics, from The University of Queensland in 1963. After various public sector jobs he joined UQ as a senior lecturer in agricultural economics in 1991. After joining the university, where he continued research into the sugar industry, he was awarded his PhD for crop simulation modelling studies in the Australian sugar industry. He is an international expert on sugar industry economics, especially in regard to mechanisation of cane harvesting and production of biofuels.

Nick Vink is from South Africa and has been Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Stellenbosch since 1996; prior to that he was a policy analyst and policy manager at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. He is currently President and an Honorary Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists. Nick attended his first IAAE conference in Buenos Aires in 1988, and edited the Cowbell in 2003, 2009 and 2012. He has been a long time active supporter of participation in IAAE by African agricultural economists from all of Africa.

Kei Otsuka became Vice-President of IAAE at its International Conference in Durban in 2003, and was in charge of programme organisation for the subsequent 2006 conference at Gold Coast in Queensland. He is a Professor of Development Economics at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and has been working at the World Bank in the last year helping prepare the World Bank’s World Development Report 2013. He is an adviser to the Coalition for African Rice Development organized by JICA and AGRA, which aims at doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa in 10 years from 2008 to 2018.
**Past Presidents**

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

| Presidents |
| Leonard Knight Elmhirst, U.K. | 1934-1958 |
| Sherman E. Johnson, USA | 1958-1961 |
| Nils Westermarck, Finland | 1961-1970 |
| Samar R. Sen, India | 1970-1976 |
| Theodor J. Dams, Germany | 1979-1982 |
| Glenn L. Johnson, USA | 1982-1985 |
| Michel Petit, France | 1985-1988 |
| Robert L. Thompson, USA | 1994-1997 |
| Douglas D. Hedley, Canada | 1997-2000 |
| Joachim von Braun, Germany | 2000-2003 |
| Prabhu Pingali, USA | 2003-2006 |
| David Coleman, UK | 2006-2009 |
| Keijiro Otsuka, Japan | 2009-2012 |
| Jo Swinnen, Belgium | 2012-2015 |
| Will Martin, USA | 2015-2018 |

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**Program announcements**

The following papers will be presented in Plenary Session 5: Best Contributed and Gender Papers, on Thursday, August 23, from 16h15 to 18h00:

**Uma Lele Gender Award Winner**
"The Role of Land Certification in Reducing Gender Gaps in Productivity in Rural Ethiopia" by Mintewab Bezabih and Stein Holden and Andrea Mannberg.

**The Ted Schultz Award- Final Nominees**

- "Who is Vouching for the Input Voucher? Decentralized Targeting and Elite Capture in Tanzania" by Lei Pan and Luc Christiaensen
- "How Land Fragmentation Affects Off-Farm Labor Supply in China: Evidence from Household Panel Data" by Lili Jia and and Martin Petrick

The winner of the Ted Schultz award will be announced during the Conference Dinner on Thursday evening.
Program changes

Final program of the Invited Panel “Gender in the Bio-Economy” scheduled on Wednesday, August 22 from 17h45 to 19h30, ExpoCenter IV A1 (Rafain Convention Center)

Chair: Uma Lele, Independent Scholar
Organizer: Miet Maertens, K.U.Leuven

Papers
Gender and Asset Ownership in Farm Households
Cheryl Doss, Yale University

Gender Issues in Global Food Supply Chains
Miet Maertens, K.U.Leuven
Scott Rozelle, Stanford University

Oral Papers Session missing in the program

"Smallholder Farming Systems" on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at 8:30 AM in " ExpoCenter IV C2

How Do New Cash Crops Spread or Not Spread?: The Case of Rice in a Suburban Area, Ghana. T. Tachibana and T. Sakurai


The Paper Session “Retail Food Prices”, scheduled on Friday, August 24 from 8.30 to 10.00 will be held in Iguacu V.

Moderator: Willis Kosura

Speakers: Giovanni Anania, University of Calabria, Charles Seguin, University of California, Berkeley and Tim Lloyd, University of Nottingham

Papers:
Sales Behaviour and Supermarket Pricing: A Duration Analysis of UK Supermarket Prices
Hao Lan, University of Nottingham; Tim Lloyd, University of Nottingham; Christopher Wyn Morgan, University of Nottingham

Price Dispersion, Search Costs and Consumers and Sellers Heterogeneity in Retail Food Markets
Giovanni Anania, University of Calabria; Rosanna Nisticò, University of Calabria

Replacement

Wednesday, 22th August 2012: 8h30 - 10h30 (Session 3), Session 4.2.10 "Input Transfers": The paper "School Dropouts and Conditional Cash Transfers: Evidence From a Randomized Controlled Trial in Rural China's Junior High Schools" by Di Mo, Linxiu Zhang, Hongmei Yi, Renfu Luo, Scott Rozelle and Carl Brinton will be presented instead of the paper "Asset Transfers and Asset Security" by Michael Beggs and Paulo Santos in session 4.2.10 "Input Transfers".

Cancellation


Withdrawn papers

Wednesday, 22th August 2012: 8h30 - 10h30 (Session 3)

4.2.8 Biofuels and Fossil Fuels
Parana - IV, Rafain Convention Center

Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
Moderator: Lilyan Fulginiti
Production of Renewable Diesel From Alternative Feedstocks: Trade Equilibrium, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Biofuel Policy
Liisa Maria Saikkonen

4.2.10 Input Transfers
Cedro - IV, Rafain Convention Center
Moderator: Shrikant Kalamkar
Asset Transfers and Food Security
Michael Begg, Paulo Santos

4.2.13 Agri-Ecosystems Services
Parana - VII, Rafain Convention Center
Moderator: Eirik Romstad
Public Finance for Interlinked Ecosystem Services: Watershed Conservation and Groundwater Management
James Roumasset

4.2.15 Collective Action
ExpoCenter IV A3, Rafain Convention Center
Moderator: Vikram Patil
Collective Reputation, Social Norms, and Participation
Alexander Saak

Thursday, 23rd August 2012: 10h45 - 12h45 (Session 4)
4.3.7 GHG Policy
ExpoCenter IV C2, Rafain Convention Center
Moderator: Delin Huang
Greenhouse Production Efficiency and Carbon Policy Implication: A Directional Distance Function Approach
Zhengfei Guan, Xiaoxi Gao
Visit the AgEcon Search booth!

Please stop by and learn more about AgEcon Search, a free Website with full text conference papers, working papers, and small journals.

AgEcon Search has over 55,000 papers, including the IAAE Contributed Papers from 2003-2012. The 423 papers from the 2009 IAAE conference have been downloaded over 190,000 times.

20-minute Learning Sessions, sponsored by AgEcon Search

Please consider spending a little of your lunch hour to learn a bit of useful information from the AgEcon Search librarians
Free databases that include the full text agricultural economics literature: **Wednesday, 1:30 pm**
Finding how many times your article has been cited: **Thursday, 1:15 pm**

New contributors to AgEcon Search

The following groups have recently begun adding their papers to AgEcon Search:

- Crawford Fund (Australia)
- Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (Uruguay)
- Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics
- Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy (USA)
- Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists
- University of Laval (Canada)
- University of Manitoba (Canada)

Please stop by our booth and suggest additional groups.

Weekly e-mail updates from AgEcon Search

If you would like a quick way to keep up to date on the latest research in agricultural economics, consider signing up for weekly e-mail updates covering new papers in AgEcon Search. Just stop by the booth, or e-mail us at aesearch@umn.edu.

AgEcon Search now hosts a data repository

By popular request, AgEcon Search is now sponsoring a repository for data, hosted on Harvard’s free Dataverse site (http://dvn.iq.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/AgEconSearch). If you have research data associated with a publication that you would like to share, please consider contributing it. Stop by our booth to discuss the possibilities.
INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 2013 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WINE ECONOMISTS CONFERENCE:
26 – 29 June 2013
Stellenbosch, South Africa

“Success through diversity” accurately describes the South African Wine Industry. It exports not only increased from 22 million litres in 1992 to 379 million litres in 2010, but over the same period the export share of the harvest grew from 5,2% to 48,5%. The result is that the producers of wine grapes received an income of $480 million in 2010 which is, incidentally, less than the $520 million the South African Government earned in the form of excise duties and value added tax from the Industry in the same year. Any industry sustaining these figures can only be an unmitigated success and for this reason it is not strange that South Africa is currently the 8th biggest producer of wine globally.

At the same time the South African Wine Industry celebrates its diversity. The range of geological and climatic niches, as overtly represented by the Fynbos Biome centred on Table Mountain (one of the New7Wonders of Nature) on the one side and the semi-desert of the Gariep on the other side, is embedded in 21 districts, 53 wards and 129 estates. At the same time almost half (46%) of the 573 cellars in South Africa crush less than 100 tons of grapes which can be contrasted with 6% of the cellars which crush more than 10 000 tons of grapes. These cellars present a spread of producer (cooperative), private and wholesale cellars. At farm level the 3 596 producers include family, estate, empowerment and lifestyle enterprises.

The development of the South African Wine Industry must always be interpreted in the context of global history. After all, the Dutch settlement at the Cape was established in 1652 with the sole purpose of supplying passing ships, plying the spice route between Europe and Asia, with fresh fruit and vegetables leading to one of the earliest export orientated agricultural sectors in the world. The first vines and wines followed within seven years and reached a new level of sophistication following the reformation in Europe and subsequent migration of Huguenots to the Cape. The fusion between all these influences is a unique but multi-faceted culture, people, language, and Cape-Dutch architecture.

The Organising Committee of the 2013 AAWE Conference cannot wait to share all aspects of our successful and diverse industry with you. Please join us for a memorable experience.

For more information, please visit our website at: http://www.embassyconferences.co.za/portfolio/present/7th-conference-of-the-american-association-of-wine-economists/31
17th ICABR Conference
Ravello (Amalfi Coast – Italy): June 23-26, 2013

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR THE BIOECONOMY
Organized by:

ICABR
International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research

and

CEIS - University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, Rutgers University, University of California, Berkeley, Technische Universität München, University of Saskatchewan, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), University of Missouri, University of Hohenheim, Wellesley College

We invite submission of abstracts, and session proposals on the Contribution of Research and Innovation for the Bioeconomy. We welcome studies with empirical results of national and regional experiences in growing the bioeconomy, conceptual and empirical research on the economics of the bioeconomy, advances in biological sciences which influence growth in the bioeconomy, and evidence on the effectiveness of policies and institutions to stimulate bioeconomy innovation and diffusion in the following areas:

- Climate Change: Rising Food Prices, Droughts, Adaptation Strategies
- Biotechnologies, GMOs, and the California Proposition to Label GM Food
- Agriculture Productivity and Food Security
- Biological Science
- Statistical and Econometric Data Collection and Modeling for the Bio-economy.

Important Dates

Dead line for abstracts (500 words) and sessions proposal: January 30, 2013
Notification of Acceptance: March 1st, 2013
Dead line Early Bird Registration: May 15, 2013
Dead line for sending full papers: May 30, 2013
Conference dates: June 23-26, 2013

icabr@economia.uniroma2.it
www.economia.uniroma2.it/icabr-conference/2013
www.icabr.org

Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 4th AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS CONFERENCE:
22 – 25 September
Hammamet, Tunisia

The African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE) was established in 2004 in Nairobi. The association has over 400 registered members working in agricultural and resource economics as well as in other social sciences. Membership is open to all interested social scientists.

The key objectives of the AAAE are:
1. To improve liaison between agricultural economists with an interest in African issues at the regional and international levels;
2. To promote training, research, policy dialogue and interest in Agricultural Economics on the continent of Africa;
3. To contribute to broad-based rural development, poverty reduction, food security and sustainable use of natural resources in the continent of Africa.

The flagship occasion of the Association is its triennial Conference, and the Association has hosted three conferences thus far:

1. The Inaugural Symposium, 6-8 December 2004, Nairobi – Kenya
3. The 3rd Conference, 19-23 September 2010, Cape Town- South Africa

The Association is currently planning its fourth conference, in Tunisia. The Local Organizing Committee is in the capable hands of Dr Mustapha Jouili (mjouili@yahoo.fr), a member of the Executive of the Association. The location of the Conference will be at the Diar Lemedina hotel in Hammamet, Tunisia. Our Conference theme has been set as “Commercialising agriculture in Africa: Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts”.

In keeping with the tradition of our conferences thus far, the AAAE will try and create as many opportunities as possible for African scholars to address African agricultural and resource economics issues. We will once again be making ample provision on the programme for Contributed papers and posters. At the last conference in Cape Town a total of just over 200 papers were submitted and reviewed, and eventually 100 contributed and 60 oral (poster) papers were accepted and presented.

IAAE Canadian Council supper

The IAAE supper for Canadian Council members and friends will be held Wednesday night at 8:00pm after the Invited Panels (Session 2). We plan to eat at Armazém (Rua Edmundo de Barros, 458; http://www.armazemtrapiche.com.br/a-casa). We will meet in the lobby of the Rafain Hotel shortly before 8:00pm to organise taxis.

Please email me (with the number attending) if you plan to attend so I can let the restaurant know how many to expect. Please also extend this invitation to anyone who missed the posting.

Ryan Cardwell
ryan_cardwell@umanitoba.ca
Available Faculty Positions at Dept. of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

**Communication and Information Technology Economist** Assistant Professor tenure system-
Applications are encouraged from scholars working within a diverse range of methodological traditions whose research addresses the economic impact, use, design, or management of information and communication technologies.

POSITION APPROVAL PENDING = Agriculture/Food Industry Position – tenure system. Research and educational programs focused on economic, finance, and/or management issues related to agricultural and food industries.

POSITION APPROVAL PENDING. **Environmental Economist** – tenure system. Research and educational programs related to water, an area of priority for MSU, potentially addressing interactions between water resources and food, health, energy, environment, development, and/or climate change.

**Research Associate, Bioenergy and Agricultural Production Economics** (fixed term). Policy-relevant research into economics of sustainable bioenergy production at major research center. Available from September 2012.

Detailed position descriptions are available at [http://aec.msu.edu/facposition/index.htm](http://aec.msu.edu/facposition/index.htm)

**MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.**

**www.economia.uniroma2.it/icabr-conference/2013**
**www.icabr.org**

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**IAMO Forum 2013**

**Rural areas for future generations: Public services, entrepreneurship and quality of life**

**19-21 June 2013, Halle (Saale), Germany**

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) and Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (vTI) invite to IAMO Forum 2013. It offers platform for academic exchange focusing on the development of rural areas in transition economies of Eastern Europe, the Former Soviet Union, and Asia. We welcome contributions discussing the depopulation of rural areas, the development of off-farm rural activities or impact assessment of rural policy interventions. Especially, we invite work on new concepts to measure well-being of rural households and economic development beyond income based poverty or GDP-like measures. The papers may exploit a wide variety of theoretical and methodological approaches from economics, sociology, geography or political sciences. Interdisciplinary contributions are particularly appreciated.

We also encourage proposals for organised sessions and for mini-symposia that focus on a specific topic within the interests of the Forum.

For further information visit [www.iamo.de/fileadmin/forum2013/flyer.pdf](http://www.iamo.de/fileadmin/forum2013/flyer.pdf) or contact Diana Traikova (traikova@iamo.de).
JOKES OF THE DAY.

ACADEMIA VS. BUSINESS

Source: http://xkcd.com/

Source: http://xkcd.com/

Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za