



XXIX International Conference of Agricultural Economists

8 – 14 August 2015

Agriculture in an interconnected world

Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy



COWBELL



YOUR CONFERENCE BULLETIN

Issue #3

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In this issue

General information about Milan	1
The Wines in Lombardy.....	1
Who Are We and Where Do We Come From?.....	2
From Member to Member	3
Jokes of the day	7

General information about Milan

Milan's origin goes back to 400 B.C., when Gauls settled and defeated the Etruscans. In 222 B.C. the city was conquered by Romans and was annexed to the Roman Empire. In 1300 the Visconti family brought a period of glory and wealth to the city, building the Duomo and the Castle. The Sforza family then assumed the Castle and the power of the Visconti family, achieving peace after many years of war against Venice and Florence. Under the Sforza duchy the city began the development of sciences, art and literature. Ludovico il Moro (Ludovico Sforza) called Leonardo da Vinci and Bramante to his court.

Attractions not to be missed are the Duomo - the third-largest cathedral in the world; the Sforzesco Castle, built in 1368 and later become an elegant and stunning Renaissance residence; Teatro alla Scala Opera House – completed in 1776 and hosting superb theatrical productions; and Santa Maria delle Grazie - an elaborate church dating back to 1463, home of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting 'The Last Supper'.

You can also enjoy many art galleries and museums, such as Pinacoteca di Brera Gallery - housing one of Italy's most important art collections; the Museo del Novecento, the Modern Art Gallery and many others. The stratification of these different art styles gives Milan a quintessential uniqueness and will provide an unforgettable setting for ICAE 2015.

Milan is the city of fashion, with shops to suit all tastes and budgets. Italy is well known for its cuisine, and the Milanese

one has much to offer starting from its classic risotto. Milan is thus an intriguing blend of history, art, fashion, and fun. In the last five years, different areas of Milano literally changed structure also as an effect of the incoming EXPO2015.

During the night there are many different spots to eat, drink and have fun. We suggest in particular the following two.

First of all, the "Navigli district". It starts from "Porta Ticinese" (Ticinese Door) with "La Darsena" (the City's harbor), which has been totally reconstructed for the EXPO, and expands through a system of water canals. The whole area is very lively during the night thanks to all its interesting bars and restaurants. During the EXPO, the district hosts a temporary food market open seven days a week (see <http://www.mercatometropolitano.com/>). There, you can find hundreds of products and taste a great variety of wines, Italian street food and regional specialties.

Another area worth seeing is Porta Nuova, which connects Garibaldi Station with a very nice neighborhood called "Isola" (Island). This area has been recently rebuilt and is now characterized by fascinating skyscrapers, such as the "Bosco Verticale" (Vertical Wood), which in 2014 won the world award "International Highrise Award". The area is rich of very interesting restaurants, cultural centers and modern squares.

Detailed information about tourism in Milan at: <http://www.turismo.milano.it/wps/portal/tur/en>.

The Wines in Lombardy

Although most agricultural areas in Lombardy focus on food production rather than grape growing, and its grapes and wines have a difficult time when compared to the surrounding regions of Piedmont, Veneto, and Trentino, Lombardy is a respectable wine producing area.

That said, one could find very good local wine production, centered specifically on six main noble grape variety zones.

The Oltrepò Pavese, which means 'beyond the Po River' and corresponds to the area of the Province of Pavia, has a long tradition of excellent wine. Its wines have only recently acquired a well-deserved recognition that goes beyond the national borders. The tradition of selling these modestly priced wines locally in the countryside's osterie, or taverns, lined along the banks of the Ticino and Po rivers, has led to the lingering false impression that the local production was of lesser quality than wines produced in the neighboring regions.

The Valtellina DOC zone, centered around the province of Sondrio, produces some of the most appreciated regional wines. This wine production is largely based on the local version of



Nebbiolo, the Piedmont noble grape known here as Chiavennasca grape. The top-quality production is represented by the Valtellina Superiore DOC wines, which are usually diversified according to the area where the grape is grown. Wines like Sassella, Grumello and Inferno are all excellent high quality wine.

The Franciacorta wine zone, located in the Province of Brescia, is responsible for some of Italy's most prestigious sparkling wines. Located along the shores of Iseo Lake, the area has a long history of producing still red and white wines but has gained most of its success in the last 40 years since it started producing sparkling wines.

The Franciacorta area hosts about 70 wineries, including some of the best Italian sparkling wines, such as Berlucchi, Ca del

Bosco and Bellavista which are recognized as national leaders in quality and prestige.

In addition to Franciacorta, the Brescia Province has two other DOC zones, Cellatica and Botticino, which are located close to the city of Brescia. Other notable wines, such as the Trebbiano di Lugana, are produced on the Brescian shores of the Garda Lake.

The Lombardy region includes other areas, less well-known, producing respectable wines. This is the case of Valcalepio DOC in the province of Bergamo, Lambrusco Mantovano, produced near the border with Emilia-Romagna, and the tiny zone of San Colombano al Lambro, in the Province of Milan.

Who Are We and Where Do We Come From?

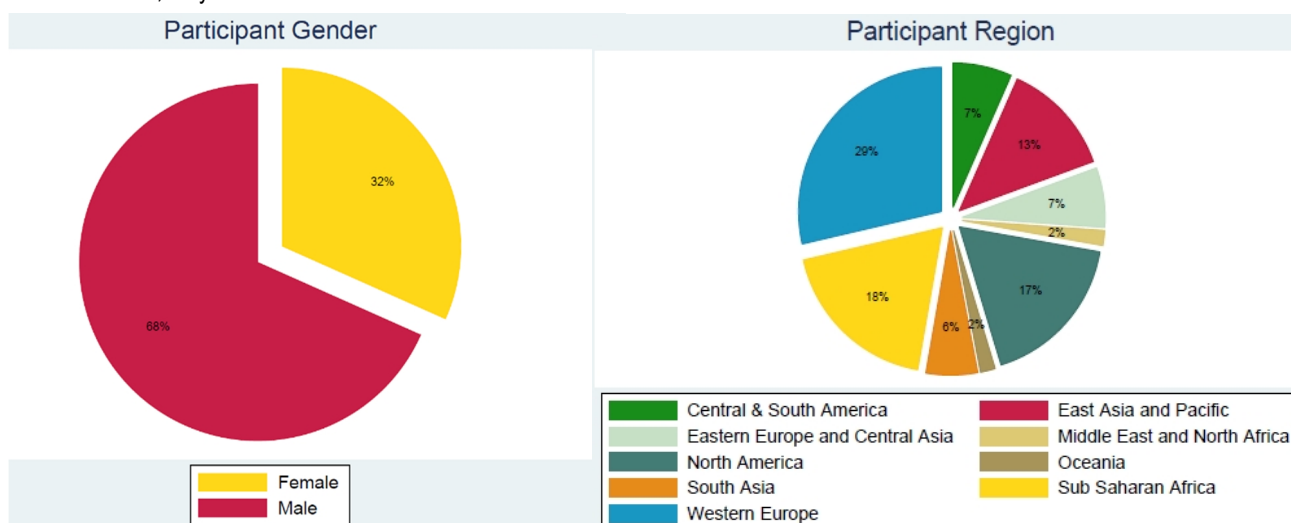
Our Triennial meeting in Milan provides a good opportunity to look at who is attending and what it might tell us about broader trends in our discipline. We look first at the number of people attending and where they come from; and then turn to look at the way we participate in different sessions.

The registration for this year's conference is record-breaking for the ICAE with over 1,200 people in attendance. The first ICAE in 1929 had 50 professionals attending (this excludes accompanying persons). From conference to conference, attendance varies considerably, depending in part on the distance from our profession's center of gravity as well as features such as the attractiveness of the conference venue.

In Milan this year, we have around 1140 professionals attending. If you are wondering why the program looks more tightly-packed than in earlier meetings, why we haven't reduced the length of the conference, why there are 18 concurrent sessions in some

cases, or why there aren't a host-country agriculture sessions before the tour, bear in mind the 65 percent increase in attendance since our last meeting and the record-breaking level attendance.

Over the past 30 years, since the Malaga Conference, we've averaged 850 delegates attending in a professional capacity and have gone close to an apparent ceiling of 1000 at both the Berlin conference and (surprisingly given its distance from the largest concentrations of agricultural economists) at the Gold Coast conference in 2006. This time, we've resoundingly smashed the ceiling. Participants have come from over 80 countries. Our second figure above shows this large spread of countries. It also highlights some areas to which we may want to increase our outreach.

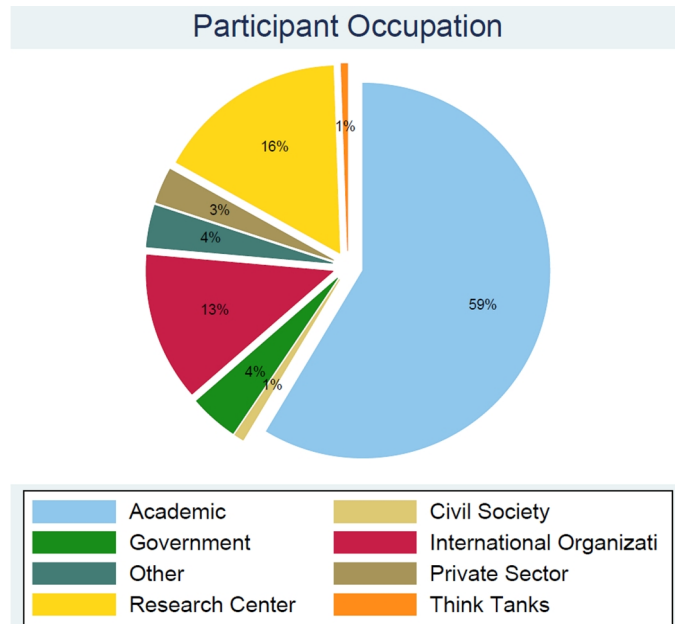


Given the location of the conference, and the strength of Agricultural Economics in Europe, it is perhaps not surprising that 29 percent of conference delegates are from Western Europe. The next largest region is Sub Saharan Africa with 19 percent of

the participants. This is a real tribute to the emerging strength of our profession in Sub-Saharan Africa. Third is North America, with 17 percent. A further 13 percent of participants come from East Asia and the Pacific; 7 percent from Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 7 percent from Central and South America, and 6 percent from South Asia. A total of 46 percent of participants are from developing economies

On gender, just under a third of our professional participants in the conference are female. Based on recollections from earlier conferences, we think that we, as an Association, have made considerable progress, although we have been unable to locate statistics to allow us to make a firm comparison.

Almost 60 percent of our participants come from Academic institutions, whether they be students or faculty members. Focused Research Centers provide the next largest group of participants, with 16 percent of the total. Another 14 percent are based in research centers or think tanks. Only 3 percent of our participants identify as coming from the Private Sector.



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!

Email your notices for the Cowbell to nv@sun.ac.za by 14h00 (2pm) of the day before publication.

Notice: Venue Changes

Due to problems related to the air conditioning, there are changes in the rooms assigned to some sessions:

Permanent changes:

- all sessions assigned to room 211 will take place in room **104** instead
- all sessions assigned to room 510 will take place in room **517** instead
- all sessions assigned to room 201 will take place in the **Auditorium**

Temporary changes - today only:

- session OS 03-11 (10:00-11:30) assigned to room 433 will take place in room **435**

Note that all changes have been registered in the Conference4me smartphone app.

Tours: Remember to check your time of departure and bring tickets

We would like to remind **all tour-goers** to check your time of departure and to bring the **tour ticket** provided, it will have to be presented in order to enter your coach/bus. The ticket was provided at registration with all the other tickets and vouchers, see the back of your nametag holder. **Participants going to the EXPO** have to take both their **EXPO ticket** and the **bus ticket** provided.

Stop by the **AgEcon Search** table to see what new papers have been added, to look up your publications, or suggest a new journal or conference that should be included!



5th AAAE Conference - Call For Paper Submissions

September 26-29, 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

“Transforming smallholder agriculture in Africa: The role of policy and governance.”

AAAE invites submissions for the 5th Conference of African Association Agricultural Economists (5th CAAAE) 2016, that will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre-Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For more details please visit the aaae-africa.org website

GMCC-15 from Nov 17 to Nov 20 2015 in Amsterdam

The **Seventh International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains** will take place from Tuesday, 17 November 2015, until Friday, 20 November 2015, in the Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The conference provides a unique stage for active debate on policy, legal, economic and technical solutions that seek to facilitate coexistence. Plenary speeches will be given by globally leading scientists such as Jayson Lusk and David Zilberman as well as leading representatives from industry such as Jaime Piçarra and Ruud Tijssens (both Feed Compounder Industry Association).



For details visit <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/activity/ConferenceGMCC15.htm>. Early bird registration finishes on Sep 15.

EuroChoices Milan Expo 2015 Open Access Special Issue



EuroChoices is a publication at the forefront of international outreach and knowledge transfer in the field of agri-food and rural resource economics. Produced on behalf of the Agricultural Economics Society (AES) and the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) this full colour, peer-reviewed journal is published three times a year in April, August and December.

To mark the Expo Milano 2015 (May-October 2015), EuroChoices is pleased to offer an open access issue featuring more than 20 essential papers on the twin Expo Milano themes of Feeding the Planet, and Energy for Life. The articles are available online until 31st December 2015. Click here <http://bit.ly/1Dn2cs0> to read the Expo Milano 2015 Virtual Issue today.



Official Participant

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greyling & Elena Ricci

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



Reunion

An informal reunion for alumnae and friends of Purdue University will take place today at 9:30 at the cloister outside.



First announcement:

IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium in Almaty (Kazakhstan), 4-6 April 2016

Agricultural Transitions along the Silk Road

Restructuring, Resources and Trade in the Central Asia Region

Organized jointly by
 Kazakh National Agrarian University (KazNAU),
 Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO),
 and the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)

Since ancient times, the Silk Road has served as a hub for the exchange of valued commodities, ideas and people between Asia and Europe. Emerging from the conditions of a socialist world order, the countries in the region opted for their own unique paths of transition. However, agriculture has remained important for rural employment and livelihoods in all countries. Questions of irrigation management, land reform, food security and government earnings from agriculture highlight the importance of the sector for general economic development across the region. The aim of this Inter-Conference Symposium is to provide a platform for knowledge exchange, discussion and networking that revives the traditional role of the Silk Road. The symposium will be structured around three sub-themes: (1) agricultural restructuring, (2) natural resources management and (3) regional trade and integration. It invites international researchers and scientists active in the wider Central Asian and Caspian Sea region with a background in agricultural economics, rural development, water management and related disciplines to share and discuss their findings to better understand the complex issues, challenges and opportunities of agricultural development along the Silk Road.

Contact:

Dr. Nodir Djanibekov
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UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

**FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

LECTURER, SENIOR LECTURER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR and PROFESSOR (FOUR POSTS): REF: 22059

The Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria is recruiting FOUR new academic staff members to serve the growing demands for training in agricultural policy, agribusiness management, environmental economics and agricultural extension. These professions have become very important for South Africa and the sub-continent as we battle with finding the best designed policy instruments to ensure a growing and sustainable agricultural sector. Without good policy and good incentives and good support to the agricultural sector this will not be possible. This recruitment drive and the expansion of our academic positions have also been possible through a large grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Department wishes to appoint applicants with specialisation in any one or combination of the following fields:

Agricultural Policy Analysis; Agribusiness Management; Agricultural Finance; Agricultural Futures Markets; Supply Chain Analysis; Agricultural Extension; and Environmental and Resource Economics.

The incumbents will have a typical academic mandate of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, supervising Masters and PhD students and producing research outputs through academic articles and conference presentations. It will also be expected from the incumbent to raise research funds and build a strong internationally acclaimed research programme. One position is a senior position and is earmarked for the leadership of our Agribusiness Management Programme.

CLOSING DATE: 31 August 2015

ENQUIRIES: Prof Johann Kirsten, johann.kirsten@up.ac.za, (+27) 12 420 3248



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

**VISITING FACULTY POSITIONS IN AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY OF
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**

The Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria in South Africa has a number of openings for faculty members in agricultural and resource economics at other universities to spend a period of study leave in Pretoria. These positions are well funded through a 5 year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We are specifically interested in leading scholars in the following fields:

Agricultural policy analysis, Land policy, Environmental and resource economics, Institutional and behavioural economics, African agricultural and rural development, Spatial modelling and issues of big data in agriculture, Food systems, value chains and consumer economics

These visiting positions will all have a typical academic mandate of co-supervising Masters and PhD students and producing research output through academic articles and conference presentations.

<u>Minimum requirements:</u>	A Phd in agricultural economics or environmental economics and a good research track record.
<u>Closing date for applications:</u>	30 November 2015
<u>Start date & Duration :</u>	1 February 2016, any period between 3 and 12 months.
<u>Value of fellowship:</u>	A monthly allowance to be negotiated, Accommodation allowance of \$2500/month, Return ticket between home university and Pretoria

There are two to three positions available per year and all applications for the positions should be accompanied by a full CV and a short précis of the research programme and focus for the period of study leave and should be sent to:

Prof Johann Kirsten, johann.kirsten@up.ac.za

Jokes of the day

P-VALUES

<u>P-VALUE</u>	<u>INTERPRETATION</u>
0.001	HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT
0.01	
0.02	
0.03	
0.04	SIGNIFICANT
0.049	
0.050	OH CRAP. REDO CALCULATIONS.
0.051	ON THE EDGE OF SIGNIFICANCE
0.06	
0.07	HIGHLY SUGGESTIVE, SIGNIFICANT AT THE $P < 0.10$ LEVEL
0.08	
0.09	
0.099	HEY, LOOK AT THIS INTERESTING SUBGROUP ANALYSIS
≥ 0.1	

Source: <http://xkcd.com/>

More econometrics...

Three econometricians went out hunting and came across a large deer. The first econometrician fired but missed by a meter to the left. The second econometrician fired but missed by a meter to the right. The third econometrician didn't fire but shouted in triumph, "We got it! We got it!"