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 # 5

Thursday 13 August 2015

In this issue

Italy and the IAAE: 65 years later .......................................................... 1
Henry A Wallace .................................................................................. 2
From Member to Member ................................................................. 2
Jokes of the Day ................................................................................. 7

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greyling & Elena Claire Ricci
Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
Italy and the IAAE: 65 years later

The 7th IAAE conference and first meeting on Italian soil, took place in Stressa from the 21st to 27th August 1949. This gathering consisted of 271 delegates from 25 countries and was the first proper conference since 1938 given the special nature of the 6th conference in 1947. That meeting only consisted of 80 invited delegates who took stock of the industry and organization following 9 years of war:

“To have held a full Conference this year open to all applicants would have been impossible. We might have found ample accommodation and food in the USA, but members from the ‘sterling’ countries would have had their special problems in obtaining necessary dollars. A few of our old members, too, seemed uncertain as to the permanent future of the Conference.” (Elmhirst, Presidential Address 1947, p. 8-9)

Following the “undoubted success of this first post-war meeting” the 7th meeting followed three years later. Given the state of the World economy, much intercontinental deliberation took place in order to agree on the most appropriate conference themes. In the words of Elmhirst some light had started to appear in the “economic world” but many shadows remained, especially the threat of another post-war depression as with the First World War. Discussions therefore focused on the topics of ensuring an immediate economic recovery in Europe and the sustainable allocation of American Aid. Whilst these challenges where pressing, Elmhirst (Presidential Address, 1949, p. 14) argued that “needs can be immediate without always being fundamental” and hence the focus of the conference should be on debating the fundamentals through three interrelated themes: “The diagnosis and pathology of peasant farming; agricultural cooperation and the modern state; and the spread of industry into rural areas.”

The first theme was introduced by the Senatore G. Medici from the Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria, Rome. He noted that peasant farming took different forms according to tenure: owner occupation, tenancy and metayage (a form of sharecropping). Originally, self-sufficiency was common to all types, but this changed with the growth of the market economy. According to him the “pathological symptoms” of peasant farming stemmed from rural overpopulation with the consequent fragmentation of holdings and with underemployment. Industrialisation relieved the pressure on the land, family farmers sought owner-operation, or else capitalistic large farms with hired labour predominated. Where family farmers gained ownership, they often attained high efficiency.

Medici (1949, p. 28) continued to argue that “legislation in modern countries has created a super-abundance of institutions and enacted endless laws whose purpose is to prevent the excessive subdivision of holdings, encourage vocational training for the peasantry, improve sanitary conditions, control the evils of excessive competition (emphasis added) and assist private enterprise to consolidate split-up holdings. According to Medici too much attention was given to these legislative interventions and too little to alleviating rural congestion through industrial development. A lack thereof results in a continuation of rural overpopulation and the persistence of ‘pathological conditions’.

The subject of agricultural cooperation and the modern state was introduced by A. W. Ashby from Oxford University, England. Ashby stressed the fact that cooperative and government systems vary greatly amongst regions, from single isolated cooperative societies to national agricultural federations, from primitive to modern states. He also observed that these worlds were closely interrelated given the example of welfare states that assume responsibility for many of functions traditionally fulfilled by cooperatives. He continued that this may not seem problematic on face value given that they originate from the same source but there is an important distinction between the two: Cooperatives arise from the economic and social institutions created by the people themselves in order to encourage voluntary association whilst State ownership was directed towards the creation of unchecked monopolies through a bureaucratic process. According to Ashby “the only option for those who fear collectivisation is that of starting immediately to build the cooperative commonwealth.”

Tying in with the need for a reduction in rural overpopulation the third topic on the spread of industry into rural areas was introduced by Rexford G. Tugwell from the University of Chicago, USA formerly a member of FD Roosevelt’s ‘Brain Trust’. By 1949 elements of modernised agriculture started to emerge following the transition away from agriculture as “a way of life” to agriculture as a category of production like any other commodity class. According to Tugwell this follows the complete urbanisation and the industrialisation of agriculture itself – within the US case this is the result of an “autonomous spiral of industrial advance” given the availability of empty lands and unexplored resources. He argues that within a non-industrialised society that wishes to increase output and raise living standards “those minimum conditions of well-being for farmers and workers out of which such a beginning spiral might spring” could be created artificially. According to Tugwell people follow industry, not vice versa, and hence the development of industrial complexes in backward areas is only possible through subsidy spending. Such endeavours are needed, however, since “the world is too small for the safe division into haves and have-nots” (p. 135). To this end Tugwell argues that the United Nations can contribute through the equalisation of technical ability and the extension of welfare services, and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development (now The World Bank) through the provision of capital necessary for the industrialisation of backward areas.

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greiling & Elena Claire Ricoi
Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
Looking back the 7th conference of the IAAE in Italy was a significant gathering and remains relevant today, the World having become even smaller and more bifurcated between haves and have-nots. Looking back we have the advantage of a long term perspective on the successes and failures of the various strategies in response to the “shadow factors” of the time. Today we have the added benefit of a rapid expansion in the availability of data and methods but Elmhirst reminds us that we also run the risk of diverting our focus from the fundamentals: the terminology may have changed but the fundamental questions remain.

Compiled from the conference summaries by David Harvey and the Proceedings of the 6th and 7th Conference as per the Blue Book.

---

Henry A Wallace

_Most of the information in this article was taken from a biography of Henry A Wallace called’ American dreamer: a life of Henry A Wallace’ by John C Culver and John Hyde (New York, Norton & Co, 2000)._  

One of the more interesting delegates at the first International Conference of Agricultural Economists was Henry A Wallace, listed in the Proceedings as coming from the ‘Wallace Publishing Company, Des Moines, Iowa.’ Henry A Wallace started his career in the family publishing business that was established by his grandfather and father, the latter a Professor at Iowa State University (he was appointed associate professor of dairying in the same year he was awarded his bachelor’s degree!).  

Henry A Wallace’s father was appointed Secretary of Agriculture in the Harding administration, at which point the son took over as Editor of the *Wallaces’ Farmer* in Des Moines after having graduates with a degree in agriculture from Iowa State. During the 1920s Wallace Jnr. developed a range of ideas on agricultural policy to help cope with the post-war slump in farm gate prices that preceded the Great Depression.  

It was also during this time (1926) that Henry A Wallace and eight other men established a company called the Hi-Bred Corn Company, with Henry providing 50% of the initial capital ($5000). Eventually the company was renamed Pioneer Hi-Bred. When it was sold to Du Pont in 1999 for $7.7bn, about a quarter of the shareholding was still in the hands of Henry’s three children!  

His interest in farm policy issues eventually resulted in an introduction to Rexford Tugwell, a member of Franklin Roosevelt’s original ‘Brain Trust’, and then to Roosevelt himself. This resulted in his appointment as Secretary of Agriculture in 1932, and eventually as Vice-President of the USA in 1940. Had Roosevelt kept him on the ticket as Vice-President in 1944, he would have become President on Roosevelt’s death four months into his fourth term instead of Harry Truman.  

According to Culver and Hyde, Henry A Wallace read two papers at this first IAAE Conference. One was supposedly a ‘highly technical study of the graphic versus the statistical method of computing multiple curvilinear regression lines’, of which Wallace said, “I put a lot of work into it and the British didn’t give a damn!” There is some mystery here, as the paper is not included in the Proceedings of the first Conference. However, the second paper, entitled ‘Relation of the tariff to farm relief in the United States’ is included.  

In this paper, Wallace argued against protectionist tariffs on manufacturing goods by the USA, as these impoverished consumers in Europe, with the result that they could not afford to repay war loans and buy agricultural exports from the USA at the same time. He is quoted as saying: “When we demand that the European countries pay up the money they owe us and at the same time raise our tariff, it is just like our having hold of them back of the neck with one hand pulling them toward us, and using a pitchfork against their belly with the other hand poking them away from us.” This was weeks before the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

Henry Wallace in Canada, 1938

Henry Wallace’s connection with the IAAE did not end at the first Conference. In 1938, when Secretary of Agriculture, he again presented a paper at the Canada conference in a session entitled ‘International trade in relation to agricultural development’. The author of the other paper in this session was G. Minderhoud from Wageningen. Both were accused by their discussant, Asher Hobson from the University of Wisconsin, who detected a ‘dominant note’ in the two presentations, namely that: “… too much dependence may not be placed upon the likelihood of increased volume of foreign trade in agricultural products.” Note the date of this debate, however – on the eve of the Second World War. Both turned out to be correct – the presenters in the following decade, the discussant in the longer term. In his reply to the discussants, Secretary Wallace addressed this point as follows:

“It has been suggested that Prof Minderhoud and I were very pessimistic about the future of international trade … I am quite willing to grant that the time may come five or ten years from now … when international trade might again expand extraordinarily and might conceivably expand faster than it has ever expanded before. I see no indication of that at the present time either from the facts or from the psychology of the situation”
The basis of international trade in agricultural goods

Continuing the history of Henry Wallace’s connection with the IAAE, there was another interesting intervention at the 1938 Conference in Canada as a result of the discussion on the presentations in the session on ‘International trade in relation to agricultural development’ by Henry Wallace and Prof. Minderhoud from Wageningen. Their second discussant, Oliver Master, from the Economic Division, Commercial Intelligence Service, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, made the following comment, which is as relevant today as it was then (this quote covers only the first of the two points):

‘Running through the opening papers that have been presented by Mr. Secretary Wallace and Professor Minderhoud, there are two veins of common thought that keep constantly coming to the surface.

First, there is the insistence in both papers upon recognition of the fact that international trade rests upon the principle that, if nations are to sell, they must be prepared to buy. Professor Minderhoud, in referring to the types of trade agreements that are now so much in evidence, says: ‘The negotiations about these agreements show the truth of the old adage that in order to be able to export one has to import as well.’ It seems hardly conceivable that the world should have reached its present stage of commercial development without having acquired an ingrained grasp of that basic fact. But we cannot blink our eyes to the sober reality that the lesson has not been learned.

In nine short words Secretary Wallace has stated the cold truth that has still to be faced: ‘Everyone wants to sell. None wants to buy.’ How can one explain the power of resistance with which this attitude is held? Partly perhaps in this way. Prior to the great depression and particularly in the pre-War period the flow of international trade and of capital movements worked so smoothly along multilateral lines, made its adjustments of balances so unobtrusively in triangular and multi-angular ways, that the fundamentals of the system were hidden from the common view. Under those conditions there was some excuse for failure to see and fully to understand that nations must buy in order to sell.

There is no such excuse for failure to-day. Recent years have stripped the mechanism of world commerce of its refinements and accessories. To quote from a recent study by the Royal Institute of International Affairs: ‘The system of international investment lies shattered, and the idea of international lending is viewed with profound misgiving both in debtor and in creditor countries.’ Gone also, without immediate prospect of return, are the gold standard and the monetary system that furnished the operating equipment, if not the basis, of exchange stability. Shorn of these vital complements, trade between many countries has been thrown back upon primitive methods, has been reduced to the simplest form. The fundamentals of commerce between countries have been laid bare and exposed for all to see. International trade no longer appears as an intricate, delicate, and mysterious mechanism, requiring an expert to explain what makes it go. The processes of bilateral bargaining and of bilateral balancing, as we now see them in action, should clear away—if anything can clear away—all doubt as to whether nations must buy in order to sell. Every clearing and payments agreement is nothing more or less than a two-sided admission that ‘we can buy from you only if you will buy from us’. The formula admits of little variation. It may be stated in any one of half a dozen ways, but it is always reducible to words of one syllable that no one can mistake. Whether they are willing to recognize it or not, all countries have been compelled to accept to some extent this basis of doing business.

I am enough of an optimist, or of a fatalist, to believe that the very universality of this reversion to primitive methods of carrying on commerce is bound to serve a large purpose over and above its primary utility in rescuing international trade from a descent to even lower levels. Education of the most practical and vivid type—one might almost say of the roughest, hardest kind—must precede and underlie any durable reconstruction of world commerce. Speaking of the obstacles that confront the trade-restoring objectives of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Programme, Secretary Wallace has said: ‘Each nation wants to expand its exports and cut down its imports.’ That attitude or aim, if not broken down, spells deadlock and stagnation in the field of international trade. If it is to be combated with success, it must be through demonstration of its futility. Could there be any more convincing form of demonstration than the world is now receiving in regard to the fact that buying and selling must go hand in hand? How long must the demonstration be continued before that fact is fully digested? And, when it is fully digested, what will be the result? Shall we find that, broadly speaking, the desire to expand exports is stronger among nations than their desire to cut down imports? Or shall we be forced to the view that the desire to sell is weaker and less insistent than the urge to restrict imports? In the one event we may expect the restoration and renewed growth of trade; in the other, continued shrinkage.

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."
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 mv@sun.ac.za by 14h00 (2pm) of the day before publication.

Venue and Programme Changes:

**Friday's timetable is incorrect**

Please note that all sessions on Friday morning will commence 30 minutes earlier than indicated on the programme book and programme at a glance.

- 8h00 Contributed paper session 6
- 10h00 Coffee break
- 10h30 Organised symposia session 6
- 12h00 Lunch break
- 13h00 Closing Plenary session

**Gala dinner dress code:**

A jacket and tie are not required for tonight's gala dinner given the weather

**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
- session OS 05-15 (11:00-12:30 am) assigned to room 433 will take place in room 435
- session CP(O) 05-17 (04:00-6:00 pm) assigned to room 433 will take place in room 104

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

Digitizing older working papers

The Giannini Foundation has recently funded AgEcon Search to scan and upload hundreds of older working papers. Stop by the table to hear about the project and see if papers from your institution are potentially included.

Meeting for alumni of CMAAE in Africa

All former students of the Collaborative Masters Programme in Agric and Applied Economics (CMAAE) present at this conference are requested to meet at the registration desk during coffee break (15:30) on Thursday 13 August.

Johann Kirsten and Willis Oloch-Kosura.

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greyling & Elena Claire Ricci

Send announcements to Nick Vink: mv@sun.ac.za
2018 ICAE takes place in Vancouver, Canada!

The 2018 International Conference of Agricultural Economists will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Dates: 28 July – 2 August, 2018
Mark your calendar!

Watch for updates at http://www.icae2018.com/

---

Invitation: Network of Excellence on African Land Governance

The World Bank's Research Department, with support from various partners, is supporting the analytical component of a new Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA). This will aim to combine survey, spatial, and administrative data to provide innovative insights and strengthen local capacity on this important topic.

We will be happy to meet those who are interested in the center and discuss about ideas to build partnerships. We will meet tomorrow, Thursday August 13, 12.30 pm during lunch break, in the Rappresentanza Room.

Lunch is open to all interested participants

If you wish to participate, please fill the online form http://form.jotformeu.com/form/52212273017342

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Klaus Deininger (kdeininger@worldbank.org)

---

Research student (2 years) in the research education subject: Business Economics- Industrial Organization

Department of Economics in Uppsala

Deadline: August 31, 2015

The research project will be part of the study of the economics of organization which include studies of the bioeconomy value chain, circular economy, biotechnology, innovation, and governance, in European and in developing economies. The studies employ tools of applied industrial organization, institutional economics, transaction costs, contracts, networks, and quantitative methods. This is a “licentiate” position, with initial funding for two (2) years. The position will be extended for another two years, leading to a full four-year PHD degree, depending on the candidate’s qualifications and availability of funding

Required qualifications

The successful candidate will have an MSC in Economics, or Agricultural Economics or Business administration, and must fulfil the general requirements for third cycle education (PHD), with 90 ECTS out of the completed course requirements in Economics or Business Studies (https://internt.slu.se/sv/utbildning-forskning-foma/utbildning-pa-forsknivaorganisation-och-ansvar/studierektor-for-forskarutbildningen/insjs-to-utb/allmanna-studieplaner-from-2013/).

contact: Kostas Karantinis,
karantinis.konstantinos@slu.se

---

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greyling & Elena Claire Ricci
Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
EuroChoices: Special Issues on Agriculture and Climate Change

EuroChoices is an outreach publication in the field of agrifood and rural resource economics. Produced on behalf of the Agricultural Economics Society (AES) and the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) it is published three times a year.

To mark the UNFCC Conference on Climate Change in Paris at the end of 2015, two special issues focus on climate change and agriculture, covering mitigation, adaptation and policy issues in agriculture. For more information please contact co-Editor Wilfrid Legg at the ICAE (wilfrid_legg@hotmail.com).

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1746-692X/issues

148th EAAE Seminar
Does Europe need a Food Policy?
30th November & 1st December 2015
Brussels, Belgium

Food is plenty and affordable for most European consumers. Society and policy makers are nowadays confronted with many other aspects of food than its availability. Several European markets are characterised by oversupply and low farmer prices, with society and policy makers discussing sustainability, environment, the relation between food and health and ethical topics, such as animal welfare and food waste. In addition, current value chains are under pressure and new structures are upcoming. These developments raise the question whether agricultural policy should develop into a food policy and how such a policy should regulate the retail and food industry and its increasing control over agriculture and its responsibility for healthy diets. What would be the optimal institutional arrangements between public authorities (at EU or member state level), agri-business (including farming) and civil society? In other words, does Europe need a Food Policy?

Keynotes by Alberto Alemanno (Paris), Tara Garnett (Oxford) and Anne-Katrin Bock (JRC). First Brussels' Mansholt Lecture by Louise Fresco (Wageningen UR).

More information: www.wageningenur.nl/eaaeseminar

60th Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society

AARES2016: Feeding and Energising Emerging Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Australia and New Zealand will take place during 2-5 February 2016 in Canberra, Australia.

The 2016 AARES Conference in Canberra will be the 60th Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. Our theme ‘Feeding and Energising Emerging Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Australia and New Zealand’ will be supported by contributions from leading thinkers on ways to achieve broad-based well-being.

This conference will offer a forum for applied and theoretical economists to gather along with industry and policymakers to share experiences and draw insights. We will learn ways to create and grow opportunities to achieve greater and shared prosperity, while better managing the natural environment in our region and beyond.

Canberra offers unique and excellent opportunities to network with decision makers across academic, research, policy and business communities that support agriculture, resource industries and economic development.

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greiling & Elena Claire Ricci
Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
In celebrating our 60th Anniversary we are introducing a number of new elements into our Conference program that will enhance learning and networking experience for all delegates. It will also offer greater opportunities to work with our sponsors to maximise mutual benefits.

An exciting social program is being developed to allow delegates and their partners the opportunity to sample some of the best experiences in and around Canberra, before and after the conference. We encourage you to bring your partners to Canberra and make the most of the gorgeous summer weather and get outdoors and explore the nation’s capital.

We look forward to seeing you in Canberra in 2016!

Please visit our website for all information. We happy to take your ideas and suggestions at AARES2016@aares.org.au.

IAMO Forum 2016
Rural Labor in Transition: Structural Change, Migration and Governance
June 22-24, 2016 | Halle (Saale), Germany

The relevance of agriculture in formal employment has decreased in many European, Central and East Asian countries during recent decades. The mutually reinforcing and interdependent processes of non-agricultural sector development and urbanization have resulted in new dynamics and diversity in the rural labor landscape. Remittances as the link between urban and international migrants and their original households have become more important for sustaining rural livelihoods, especially in poorer countries and regions. Yet in a number of countries agricultural activities still fulfill important safety net functions. However, a potential lack of qualified agricultural labor and increasing wages, as observed in some places, will constrain future prospects of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. These phenomena are not fully understood in terms of their functioning, or their poverty and sustainability outcomes.

The IAMO Forum 2016 focuses on the interlinkages between people’s mobility across localities, countries, sectors and types of employment, as well as local economic development. The drivers and consequences will be debated from a social sciences perspective, including economics, political sciences, sociology, anthropology and history. We welcome submissions of papers addressing these aspects with a regional focus on Europe, Central Asia and China. Contributions on the following topics are welcome:

- Links between rural economic development and migration; The effects of migration on rural households’ welfare; The role of agricultural development in labor shortage and excess labor; Institutional drivers and barriers of regional and occupational mobility; Organization of labor relations and management in agriculture; The effect of migration on local governance and transition processes.

Submissions that do not correspond to the above issues but fit within the general conference theme will also be considered by the organizing committee.

The conference will be jointly organized with the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). More information about the IAMO Forum 2016 is available at www.iamo.de.

For more information on the call for Organized Sessions and Extended Abstracts
See www.iamo.de/forum/2016 for more information.

Contact
Vasyl Kvardiuk, Diana Traikova, Nodir Djanibekov, Thomas Herzfeld, Judith Möllers, Martin Petrick
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)
Theodor-Lieser-Str. 2, 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany, Phone: +49 345 2928-110
E-mail: forum2016@iamo.de

Nobel Prize
"George Stigler Nobel laureate and a leader of Chicago School was asked why there were no Nobel Prizes awarded in the other social sciences, sociology, psychology, history, etc. "Don't worry", Stigler said, "they already have a Nobel Prize in ...Literature"
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, Prof. Dr. Martin Petrick
Email: djanibekov@iamo.de
www.iamo.de

149th EAAE Seminar

Structural change in agri-food chains: new relations between farm sector, food industry and retail sector

27-28 October 2016
SMART LERECO, NRA/Agrocampus Ouest, Rennes, France

The seminar focuses on structural change along the food chains. It includes the farm sector, the food industry as well as the retail sector. Farms and firms in the food industry are interrelated through various contractual and informal arrangements. Relations between the food sector and the retail one, as well as between the farm sector and the retail sector, take also various forms. Understanding how these interrelations work (or do not), and under different economic and social conditions, is key to boost the competitiveness of agriculture.

This seminar will not only look at structural changes in each of these sectors separately, but also pay attention to the interactions between them, how these affect the relations between farms and the downstream sector. These relations develop through several channels and depend on various factors, including the spatial distribution of farms and firms, spatial procurement of raw materials and supply chain organisation, quality management and vertical specialisation. As a result, developments in each sector may be at the same time a driver

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greilinger & Elena Claire Ricci
Send announcements to Nick Vink: nv@sun.ac.za
and/or a result of those in the other sector, and it is important to consider them together in order to better disentangle the key driving forces such as public policies and market structure, the respective roles and potential threshold effects.

The seminar will welcome two keynote speakers: Alfons Balmann (IAMO, Germany) and Bruno Larue (Laval University, Quebec, Canada).

Call for papers

Researchers should submit their proposal by January 27, 2016. For papers, an extended abstract of 2 pages maximum, excluding references, should be submitted, and for posters, an abstract of 1 page maximum including references

For more information see https://colloque.inra.fr/eaee149.

---

**Jokes of the Day**

**Break free…**

\[ p<0.05 \]

---

**So it’s a date**

**HOW TRADING AND EXCHANGING IDEAS OVER DINNER WOULD EXPAND OUR SET OF CONSUMPTION OPPORTUNITIES**

---

Editors: Nick Vink, Jan Greylimg & Elena Claire Ricci

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