

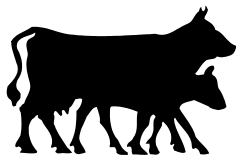


The XXX International Conference of Agricultural Economists

28 July – 2 August 2018

Vancouver, Canada

New Landscapes and New Mandates for Agriculture



COWBELL



YOUR CONFERENCE BULLETIN

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In this issue

Looking back: ICAE 1979, Banff, Canada	2
Benefits of IAAE membership	3
Updating the IAAE governing structure	3
From Member to Member.....	4
Joke of the day	8

Looking back: ICAE 1979, Banff, Canada

After previously working primarily on U.S. domestic issues in USDA, Banff was my first ICAE conference. It occurred during my second year at Farm Foundation. Jim Hildreth, then president of the U.S. based Farm Foundation was the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer and I was attending the ICAE to assist Jim as needed with his duties in Banff. This included sitting in on the IAAE Board meeting to help Jim compile the meeting minutes and follow-up as needed during the conference. This gave me an opportunity to meet some of the leaders of the Association and other luminaries of the international agricultural economics profession. It also allowed me to meet newer IAAE members who eventually served on the IAAE Board and provided leadership to the Association up to the current time.

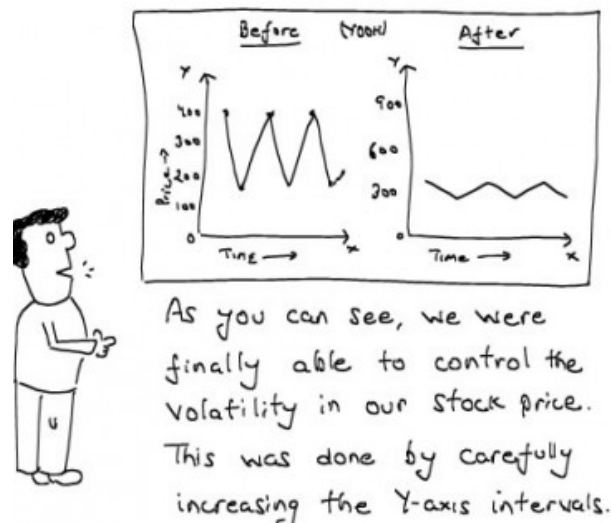
An interesting tidbit which I recall distinctly was the unexpectedly large turnout that exceeded the Banff Springs hotel capacity. This left the IAAE Executive Committee and Local Organizers scrambling to accommodate housing needs. I received a knock on my door late the first evening of the conference and was introduced to an unexpected roommate for the next several days from Sweden. We enjoyed getting to know each other's backgrounds and interests. However, my roommate never returned to the ICAE. I trust that it wasn't because of his interaction with me that he decided to spend his professional conference time elsewhere, but I've sometimes wondered!

Little did I know at that first meeting that I was destined to become increasingly involved in IAAE and other international activities for the balance of my professional career. This included 23 years as Secretary-Treasurer through the end of 2014. Since 1979 IAAE has evolved significantly. We gradually shortened the ICAE from 10 days to its current 5-6 days, introduced *Agricultural Economics* as the Association's Journal, introduced a semiannual Newsletter sent to all members and eventually added News Updates covering periods between them, transitioned from relying on the Local Organizing

Committee for the triennial conferences to produce a substantial surplus from the conference for funding the Association's operations, moved from paying a large sum to publish the Blue Book proceedings of the conference to incorporating them into the Journal which now provides significant income for the Association, significantly increased the contributions available and number of developing country participants partially supported to attend the ICAE, instituted periodic Interconference Symposia held in various countries around a topic of interest regionally to help develop or strengthen a relationship between IAAE and a local or regional association, and most recently incorporated IAAE and updated its U.S. IRS classification to allow a broader range of organizations to provide support for engaging developing country participants without unduly burdening the grantor.

I have completed a cycle from being introduced to IAAE, working closely with its leaders and members for more than 35 years, and now enjoying participating without responsibilities in the last conference I was involved in helping initiate. It has been a wonderful experience that allowed me to become acquainted with many agricultural economists worldwide. I cherish it greatly.

Walt Armbruster, July 12, 2018



Benefits of IAAE membership

Some of you have enquired about membership of the IAAE entails, so we happily obliged. Membership provides the opportunity to dialogue in many ways with those at the cutting edge of problem solving in relation to the agricultural economic issues outlined above and to keep abreast of important international events which address the issues.

Agricultural Economics

Agricultural Economics: The Journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists is the flagship publication of the IAAE. It is provided to all members in electronic form. Those who wish may obtain a hard copy at a cost of \$105 additional to their dues. As of January 1, 2016 AE will only be available electronically. Proceedings of the triennial international conference are published as a special edition of Agricultural Economics.

Member Directory

Current members have online access to a member directory. It contains up-to-date contact information for all paid members from the current and immediate previous membership period.

Handbook

Members can also access the IAAE handbook providing details of IAAE policies, Board of Director actions and related business matters.

Discussion Forums

Members may participate in online discussion Forums. IAAE is pleased to host a Discussion Forum for our members. This feature provides you a place to express your points of view about any matter you think might interest your fellow members and seek their ideas. Please login to access this feature.

Newsletters and News Alerts

The biannual IAAE Newsletter contains information about IAAE activities and publications and other international events and opportunities. Periodic News Alerts containing timely information are distributed between Newsletters.

IAAE website

Visit the [IAAE website](#) today and access the members area with the logins details that has been sent to you. Please note that if you have registered for the conference after the 1st of June you may not have received your login details. These will be sent to you shortly after the conference. For all member related questions please contact our office on Milwaukee at:

Email: jaae@execinc.com

Phone: 1-414-918-3199 , Fax: 1-414-276-3349

Updating the IAAE governing structure

The original IAAE governing structure well fit the needs of the organization and its approach to involving as many countries as possible in the 1920s. But the It provided for countries to be represented proportionally in a voting Council that governed the organization. Ranges in numbers of members needed to qualify for from 1 to 4 voting members of the Council were specified in the IAAE bylaws. A country representative was to be designated by each country to act as a conduit between the IAAE and its individual members. Their role importantly included recruiting IAAE members and keeping those members informed about activities and conferences especially, the

triennial international conference of agricultural economists (ICAE) central to the organizations function. Over time, the level of country representative's active participation in recruitment and communications dissipated in all but a few countries which were quite well organized and tended to have numerous IAAE members. Once a semiannual IAAE Newsletter was established starting in the late 1980s, it increasingly became the primary source of communications to the members, thereby largely obviating one role of country representatives. Further, many countries failed to keep the IAAE office updated on information about their country

representative or to make changes when people retired, etc. While efforts were made to maintain an active country representative system, it became increasingly difficult to do and less necessary given the growth in electronic communications. Another issue with the Council system was the voting process for officers and board members which took place at the annual meeting in conjunction with the triennial ICAE. Voting for members in a stepwise fashion led to subsequent rounds of voting becoming somewhat chaotic as countries or groups within a region nominated candidates from the floor. By 2009 it was clear that changes were needed in how the organization was governed in relation to the Council and country representative system.

A second issue needing attention was the lengthy term officers frequently committed to if they were elected as Vice President-Program, then to a three-year term as President-elect, followed by President, and finally Immediate Past President. This 12-year commitment to leadership roles in the Association became somewhat burdensome for an individual. An obvious solution emerged to drop the role of Vice President-Program and assign the President-elect the role of program planning for the subsequent ICAE.

Finally, there was need to modernize the IAAE structure by incorporating rather than continuing to operate as an unincorporated entity. This would provide some level of legal protection for officers and the Association. There was also a need to better coordinate between program planning and the Fund for the International Conference of Agricultural Economists (FFICAE) which was raising increasingly large amounts of funding to support developing country participation in the ICAE.

The Board voted to initiate action to dissolve the Council system, drop the country representative role, reorganize the officer functions, initiate individual member electronic voting for officers and directors, and to incorporate IAAE. Work ensued, guided by legal experts with experience on nonprofit organizations, to update the IAAE bylaws to incorporate these changes for final approval at the 2012 Council meeting in Brazil. The board also reorganized the functioning of the FFICAE to make the fundraising activity for developing country representatives run more smoothly. This involved creating partially overlapping governing boards for the two organizations and specifying roles for each of the officers following the triennial IAAE elections. The IAAE Board also obtained a different designation of nonprofit status to a type which allowed other nonprofits to provide funding directly to the FFICAE rather than through another entity having the appropriate designation type without being required to closely supervise the distribution of funding to individuals.

This brief overview of the rationale and process of updating the IAAE governing structure to fit today's world belies all of work that went into accomplishing the task by several then current and past Board members. However, there is little doubt in my mind that this was one of the more important things that was needed to assure the IAAE's future. I believe that the initial experience has been positive from the resulting changes. Of course, the IAAE Board is in position to modify the Bylaws as needed to keep abreast on continuing evolution in the nonprofit sector requirements.

Walt Armbruster, July 12, 2018

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



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IAMO Forum 2019

FORUM 2019
JUNE 26-28
SMALL FARMS IN TRANSITION

Small farms in transition: How to stimulate inclusive growth?

26 – 28 June 2019 | Halle (Saale) | Germany



Farms below two hectares produce one third of global food supply. Furthermore, these farms form an important element in securing social stability in rural areas of many European and Asian transition economies. The role of small farms as an engine of agricultural growth, a reserve employment source and a social safety net varies depending on a country's context. In the poorer countries of the region, these small farms still represent a major element of rural life. However, their future is uncertain among others due to a low interest in farming of the younger generation and because they are excluded from almost all agricultural policy instruments. Instead of public policies that benefit a broader agricultural population, most governments implement selective measures benefiting medium-size and large farms. Against this background, the conference will address the important challenges: How and via which channels does a country's general economic development trigger down to small farms? What is the role of small farms in agricultural growth in

transition economies? How to enable small farms to take part in technological development and access innovations? Which forms of cooperation would be beneficial for these farms and which ones are accepted by them? How can small farms navigate dysfunctional institutional environment and successfully compete with larger counterparts? Which policies increase welfare and are able to benefit small farms and rural households? Finally, which factors explain the large-farm bias of agricultural policies?

The IAMO Forum 2019 focuses on the interlinkages between small farm development as well as agricultural and public policies. 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 the following issues with a regional focus on Europe, Central Asia and China:

- Role of small farms for agricultural growth, food security and resilience
- Public policies promoting competitiveness of small farms and enabling livelihood strategies of rural households
- Political economy of agricultural and pro-poor public policies
- Commercialization and smallholder participation in value chains
- Role of corruption and informality for small farms
- Interaction between corporate agribusiness and small farms
- New forms of cooperation in rural areas
- Allocation of land and tenure security
- Access to production inputs and finance
- Role of women in small farm development and income diversification

More information about the IAMO Forum 2019 will soon be available at: www.iamo.de/forum/2019.

Organising committee:

Nodir Djanibekov, Thomas Herzfeld, Vasyl Kvartiuk,
Judith Möllers, Martin Petrick and Axel Wolz

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Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development
in Transition Economies

Transforming Rural Africa

NBER Research Conference -- Call for Papers: February 28 – March 1, 2019



Sub-Saharan Africa is in the early stages of agricultural productivity growth and structural transformation. Agriculture's share of GDP and of employment have declined in recent decades across the continent and uptake of modern agricultural inputs has expanded along with rural communications and transport infrastructure, though slowly and unevenly. These trends have vast implications for the continent, especially for the region's poorest individuals, who are concentrated in rural regions and most of whom base their livelihoods in agriculture. Given that the World Bank projects 80% of the world's extreme poor will be in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030, the transformation of rural Africa is of tremendous global importance.

Africa's structural transformation process has, to date, largely involved its still-low-productivity agricultural sector, and it has tended towards non-tradable services. This pattern stands in contrast to the structural transformation in many countries on other continents, which involved a move toward manufacturing. The African trajectory risks high urban poverty and growing rural-urban inequality. Inequality has indeed increased in about half of sub-Saharan African countries, and the extent of the increase is strongly associated with the degree of urbanization. How can policy promote a transformation with broad and inclusive benefits? Policy levers that influence the nature of the transformation include instruments that influence the expansion of the non-tradeable service sector vis-à-vis manufacturing, as well as instruments that bolster productivity growth and stability of the smallholder agricultural sector.

To explore the determinants of structural transformation and the impact of various policies on it, the NBER will host a research conference in Cambridge, MA, on February 28-March 1, 2019. This conference is made possible by the generous support of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The conference will bring

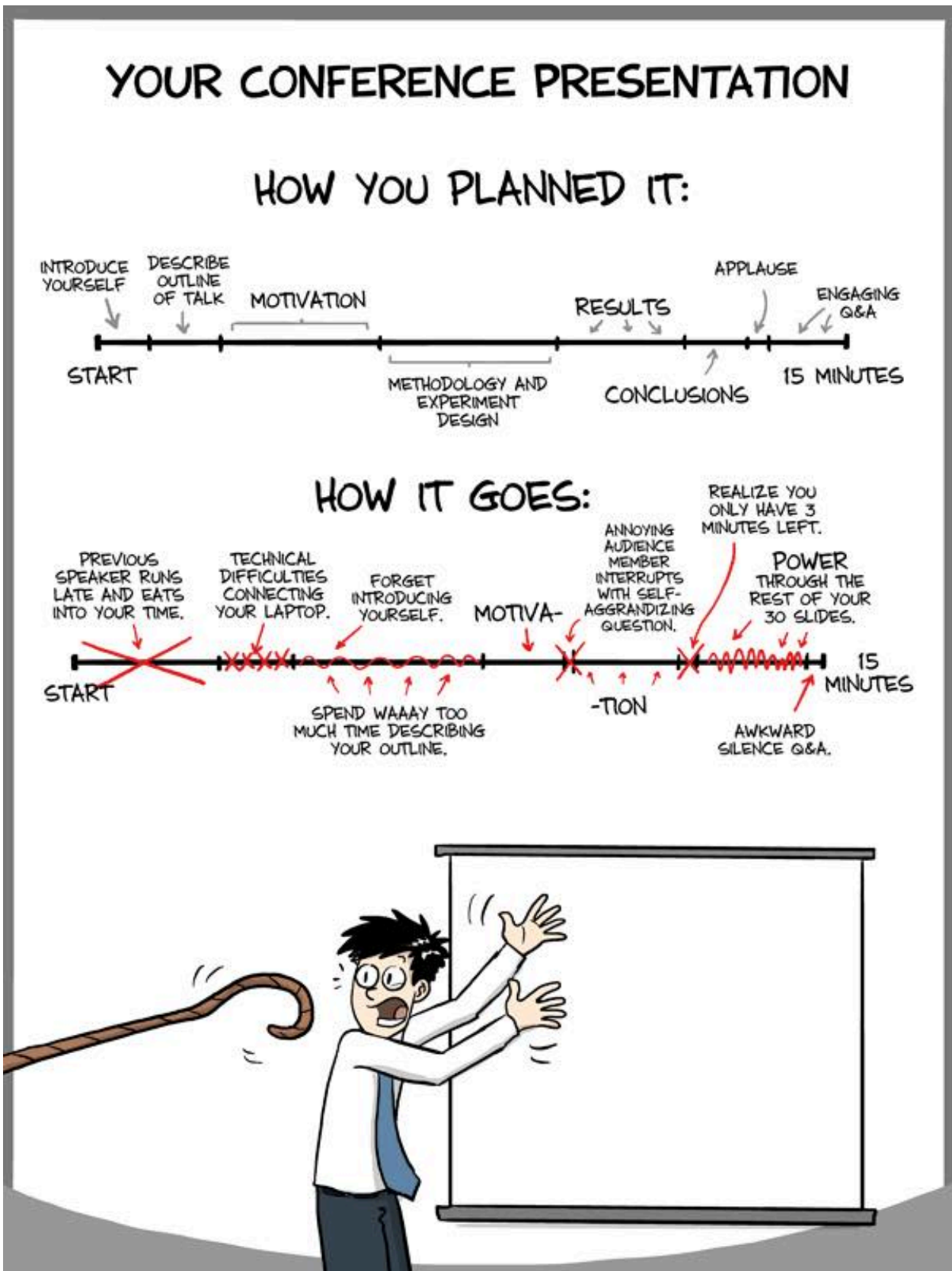
together researchers who offer a range of perspectives on the structural transformation underway in rural Africa, and will especially emphasize micro-scale evidence from households and firms. Suitable research topics include, but are not limited to, electrification, raising agricultural productivity, industrialization, increasing transportation infrastructure and regional connectedness, gender inequality, rural access to finance and factors that influence the quality of life for African people.

The conference will be organized by Chris Barrett (Cornell), Michael Carter (UC-Davis and NBER), Hanan Morsy (AfDB), Abebe Shimeles (AfDB), Tavneet Suri (MIT and NBER), and Chris Udry (Northwestern and NBER). In keeping with the constraints that apply to all NBER research, papers and presentations may not include any policy recommendations or normative statements. Papers presented at the conference will be eligible for distribution through the NBER working paper series. Presenters will need to provide an executive summary of up to 1000 words prior to the conference.

Researchers are invited to submit their papers through the [NBER website](#) no later than midnight EDT on Thursday, November 1, 2018. Authors must provide a complete paper to be considered for the conference; abstracts will not be considered. Proposers with and without NBER affiliations are welcome. Papers by researchers from Africa-based institutions, early career scholars, and from researchers from groups that are under-represented in the economics profession are especially encouraged. Decisions about which papers will be included on the program will be announced in early December, 2018.

	<p><i>6th AAE Conference</i></p> <p><i>23 – 26 September 2019</i></p> <p><i>Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria</i></p>	
 <p>6TH AAE CONFERENCE 23 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019 SHERATON HOTEL - ABUJA, NIGERIA</p>	IMPORTANT DATES	
<p>Rising to Meet Evolving Challenges: Africa's Agricultural Development Beyond 2020 Vision www.aaae2019.info</p>	ITEM	DATE
	First Call for Papers	30 July 2018
	Second Call for Papers	28 August 2018
 	Final Call for Papers	28 September 2018
	Website open for submissions of contributions	20 November 2018
	Submission of Proposals for Symposia	08 December 2018
	SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE for all contributions	07 March 2019
 	Early Bird Registration Opens	04 April 2019
	Notification of Acceptance of Papers	06 June 2019
	Early Bird Registration Deadline	20 June 2019
 	Presenting Authors Registration Deadline	18 July 2019
	Deadline for Revised Papers Submissions	22 July 2019
 	6th AAE Conference, Abuja, Nigeria	23-26 September 2019

Joke of the day



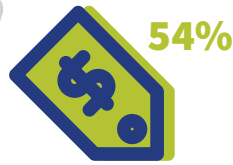
Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI)

Preparing for a smoke-free future by facilitating globally competitive economies and farmers

DECLINING DEMAND FOR TOBACCO LEAF COULD HAVE DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON FARMER INCOMES IN MALAWI



Global cigarette sales have fallen by **7.6%** between 2012 and 2016
(Euromonitor International, 2018)



Farm-gate prices of tobacco in Malawi have fallen by **54%** between 2012 and 2016
(FAOSTAT, 2018)



Over the past decade, tobacco has represented **40.6-63.6%** of Malawi's total exports
(BACI, 2018)



Malawi's tobacco exports have fallen by **33%** in quantity between 2012 and 2016
(BACI, 2018)

MARKET-DRIVEN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO MITIGATE THIS DECLINE



Identify
demand-driven growth opportunities



Invest
in inclusive business models and value chains



Enhance
productivity with science and technology



Unlock
constraints to growth with targeted policy reform



- Understand current tobacco-based business models.
- Seek existing and potential markets for alternative crops and livelihoods to replace declining tobacco income.
- In the long-term, identify and support structured agricultural value chains and adjacent industries to drive economic growth.

- “Grow the pie” by targeting high-value business models.
- Co-create business models that accrue value directly to smallholder farmers.
- Leverage innovative financing mechanisms to drive growth.
- Pilot “ring-fenced” agricultural investments to achieve scale and security.

- Create a Center of Excellence that merges 21st century agricultural innovation with the scaling power of the private sector.
- Identify game-changing inputs and technologies that can drive productivity increases and economic growth.
- Incentivize private sector investment with risk capital and technology transfer agreements.

- Identify business model and cross-cutting constraints to growth in agriculture, trade, investment, finance, and access to capital.
- Facilitate the policy reform process through existing processes and stakeholders.
- Form and facilitate a Doing Business task force to position Malawi as a lead reformer in SSA.

Our approach is to combine strategic partnerships and a robust research agenda to catalyze progress, empower local organizations, and create globally competitive, prosperous farmers



Paralleling economic growth comparable to African success stories



Seeking improvement in Doing Business Indicators/Investment climate



Rising and securing smallholder farmer incomes



Improving dietary diversity and food security



Reducing child stunting and other malnutrition