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

Issue # 5

Thursday 2 August 2018

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Editor: Jan C Greyling
Send announcements to jancg@sun.ac.za
IAAE 2018 Carl K. Eicher Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation 2015-2017

Members will recall that the Family, friends and colleagues of the late Carl K. Eicher have established a fund under the IAAE to support an award for the “best doctoral dissertation on Africa” to honor the outstanding contributions of the late Professor Eicher to African agricultural research and education. The second award will be made at the International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Toronto in July/August, 2018, consisting of a cash prize of $1,000 and partial travel support to attend the conference.

The process was guided by the following “rules”. Any Department of Agricultural Economics or other Department of Economics or allied discipline with a specialization in Agricultural Economics could present nominations. Nominations could be made by either the Chair of the Department or the Principal Supervisor(s) of the nominee. All doctoral dissertations relating to agricultural economics (according to the JEL classification) applied to an African problem (defined according the FAO classification of African countries) were eligible.

Doctoral dissertations must have been completed during the years, 2015, 2016 or 2017. Each nomination included a cover memo of a maximum of two pages on why the dissertation has been selected for nomination. Each nomination included an electronic copy of the dissertation. Nominators have provided the IAAE with the name of a recognized Agricultural Economist who has agreed to serve as a member of the Review Committee to select the winning entry. Review Committee members were asked to review three dissertations in the first round, and then to review the four dissertations that scored the highest in a second and final round. Nominations had to have been be sent to the coordinator by midnight GMT on January 26, 2018.

Eleven dissertations were duly accepted for review and were considered by a Panel of judges nominated by respective nominators. A two-round review process was managed by a Coordinator. The Panel consisted of Chris Barrett, Liesbeth Dries, Ray Dziwornu, Andrew Iheanacho, Thom Jayne, Songqing Jin, Steve Kyle, Paul Preckel, Matin Qaim and Justus Wessler (and the Coordinator). On behalf of the Association, I wish to thank the Panelists most sincerely for their timely assessments, and offer our hearty congratulations to all those being recognized in this process.


Jock R. Anderson, Georgetown University, Coordinator, the 2018 Carl K. Eicher Award of the IAAE
Where are we from

North America 33%

Europe & Central Asia 30%

Latin America & Caribbean 5%

South Asia 5%

Middle East & North Africa 1%

Sub-Saharan Africa 12%

East Asia & Pacific 14%

North America 33%

High income 69%

Lower middle income 12%

Low income 4%

Upper middle income 15%

South Asia 5%

Middle East & North Africa 1%

Sub-Saharan Africa 12%

East Asia & Pacific 14%

Europe & Central Asia 30%

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Looking back: 1938 International Conference of Agricultural Economists

The International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) was first held in Canada 80 years ago in August 1938 at MacDonald College (McGill University) near Montreal in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue and was the 5th ICAE. About 510 conference delegates attended (about a dozen were female) from 22 countries, including Canada, USA, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Argentina, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Trinidad, South Africa, New Zealand, Java (Indonesia), China, and India. The conference was conducted in English, French and German with simultaneous translation provided. The six-day conference looked very different from today’s ICAE. The program was primarily organized around four topics, with a first and second opening paper on each topic (one in the morning, one in the afternoon), followed by discussion. The four main topics featured at the conference were “Social Implications of Economic Progress in Present-Day Agriculture”, “Land Tenure and the Social Control of the Use of Land”, “Farm Labour and Social Standards” and “International Trade in Relation to Agricultural Development”, with eight other papers presented on intervening days. The conference was preceded by pre- and post-conference tours of Canadian and U.S. agriculture lasting one to three weeks. Attending ICAE 1938 was quite the time commitment!

G. Minderhoud (Wageningen, Holland) and Henry Wallace (U.S. Secretary of Agriculture) presented the two lead papers in the session “International Trade in Relation to Agricultural Development”. The papers and the following eight discussion papers reviewed the economic, political and social issues involved in the desires and difficulties for a more open trading system for the world. These issues which presaged the subsequent GATT Agreement, while coming 80 years ago, remain relevant in today’s trade environment. Wallace captured the difficulty very succinctly as:

“It must be remembered that those charged with the conduct of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Programme are up against the mercantilist attitude towards trade which predominates in the present-day world. That is, each nation wants to expand its exports and cut down its imports. Everyone wants to sell. None wants to buy. The favourite method of trying to bring about this impossible result is the quantitative limitation of imports. That method is more effective in throttling trade (a country’s exports as well as its imports, of course) than is even the highest tariff. Nations following such practices can only with difficulty be brought into an effective trade agreement.”

The “Blue Book” proceedings for ICAE 1938 features a preface by L.K. Elmhirst (President). Reflecting on the approaching ten-year anniversary of the ICAE (which was established in 1929), he observes:

“The changing circumstances of those ten years have, however, imposed alterations in the scope and the responsibility of agricultural economics that were difficult to foresee ten years ago. The growing public concern with nutrition and with standards of living in general is forcing all nations into attempting to find and establish not only a sound economic foundation for their agriculture but a new orientation to the problems of rural and urban life and society in general. The day-to-day uncertainty of trade in agricultural products between one nation and another have thrust upon the attention of agricultural economists problems which are common to all nations and which are of vital international significance.” Eighty years on these reflections still resonate.
Honorary life members

Kym Anderson is George Gollin Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide and an Honorary Professor at the Australian National University’s Crawford School of Public Policy. He worked at the GATT (now WTO) Secretariat in Geneva during 1990-92 and at the World Bank in Washington DC during 2004-07. Since graduating from the University of Chicago and Stanford University he has published more than 400 articles and 40 books. During 2010-17 he was on the Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute, chairing it from 2015. He has participated in most IAAE triennial conferences since 1979, and served on the IAAE’s Board of Directors during 2012-15. He is a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Economics degree from the University of Adelaide and a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of New England. In 2015 he became a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC).

Shenggen Fan has been director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) since 2009. Dr. Fan served as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Agricultural Economists from 2009 to 2012. He has led extensive research on pro-poor development strategies and public investment in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East as a research fellow at IFPRI since 1995 and as the director of the Development Strategy and Governance Division since 2005. In 2014, Dr. Fan received the Hunger Hero Award from the World Food Programme in recognition of his commitment to and leadership in fighting hunger worldwide. He received the 2017 Fudan Management Excellence Award, the award referred to in China as the “Nobel Prize for Management” recognizing individuals with outstanding contributions to the field of management. He also continues to advise many national governments (including China and Vietnam) on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Alain de Janvry is a Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. His area of interest is international economic development, with expertise principally in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle-East, and the Indian subcontinent. His fields of work include poverty analysis, rural development, land reform, quantitative analysis of development policies, impact evaluation of social programs, technological innovations in agriculture, and the management of common property resources. He has worked with international development agencies such as FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, UNDP, ILO, the CGIAR, and the Inter-American Development Bank as well as with foundations such as Ford, Rockefeller, Kellogg, and Gates. He is a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association and a member of the French Academy of Agriculture. He delivered the Elmhirst lecture at the IAAE meeting in Beijing.

Scott Rozelle holds the Helen Farnsworth Endowed Professorship at Stanford University and is Senior Fellow and Professor in the Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI) for International Studies. Dr. Rozelle’s research focuses on the economics of poverty—with an emphasis on the economics of education and health. Dr. Rozelle is the co-director of the Rural Education Action Project (REAP) and is an adjunct professor in 8 Chinese universities. In 2008, Dr.
Rozelle was awarded the Friendship Award—the highest honor that can be endowed on a foreign citizen—by Premi è re Wen Jiabao.

Elisabeth Sadoulet is an economist with a doctorate degree from the University of Geneva. She is a professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California at Berkeley. Her research is on the modeling and econometric analysis of processes, programs, and policies in international development, with a particular emphasis on impact analysis. Her work has focused principally on Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Indian Subcontinent. She was a member of the core team that prepared the World Development Report 2008, Agriculture for Development. She has been a consultant for numerous international organizations such as the World Bank, the FAO, IFAD, ILO. She is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and a senior fellow at the FERDI. She served on the board of UNU-WIDER and is on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Courant Center at the University of Göttingen. Current projects include technology adoption in India under ATAI, index-based group insurance in Guatemala under 14, and weather insurance in China under 3ie. She has been a member of the IAAE Executive Committee.

Gerald Shively is Professor Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, where for the past decade he also served as Associate Department Head and Director of the MS and PhD programs in Agricultural Economics. He has more than 20 years of research experience working in the areas of agricultural development, food security and natural resource management worldwide. A longtime contributor to IAAE activities, he served as Editor of the Association’s flagship journal Agricultural Economics from 2006-2015. He has published more than 100 scholarly works, and has received numerous teaching and research awards, including the 2007 Purdue College of Agriculture Outstanding Researcher award. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996.

David Zilberman is Professor and Robinson Chair, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley. He works on agricultural & environmental policy, water, marketing, risk and innovation, and the bioeconomy. He is Fellow and President-Elect (2018) of Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) & Association of Environmental and Resource Economists(AERE). He won the AAEA Publication of Enduring Quality Award (2005, 2010) among other awards. He has published 350 refereed articles and has edited 25 books and loves to Blog. He is the Co-Founder of the International Water Resource Economics Consortium and the International Consortium of Applied Bioeconomy Research. He established and is Co-Director of Berkeley’s Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program and the Masters of Development Practice.
Looking Back: 1979 International Conference of Agricultural Economists

The 17th ICAE was held in Banff, Alberta, Canada on 3-12 September 1979. The year coincided with the 50th anniversary of the IAAE, which occasioned particular recognition in the program. The conference theme was “Rural Change: The Challenge for Agricultural Economists”. Sir Arthur Lewis delivered the Elmhirst Memorial Lecture, entitled “Development Strategy in a Limping World Economy”. The subsequent proceedings celebrate the fact that later in 1979 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, shared with the 1976 Elmhirst Memorial Lecturer, Theodore W. Schultz. Sir Arthur’s paper focused on the linkage between the growth in more developed and less developed countries. He framed his discussion, that remains relevant today, as:

“If MDCs grow more slowly than LDCs their imports will slow down, the terms of trade will move against LDCs, and the growth rate of LDCs will slow down. Given the continuation of these links what LDCs need is that MDCs should grow as fast as possible. These issues have come to a head since 1974, when the onset of international recession brought all growth rates down, and especially the growth rate of international trade, which has since averaged about 4 per cent, in contrast with the 8 percent of the two preceding decades. This has brought two questions to a head. First, were the high postwar growth rates to 1973 a mere flash in the pan, not due for repetition, or will the previous pace be restored? And secondly, if the developed countries now settle into slow growth, can the LDCs delink themselves and continue with high growth on their own?

Glenn L. Johnson (Michigan State University) prepared the conference program and Murray Hawkins (University of Alberta) chaired the committee for local arrangements. “Local” included a choice of 11 professional contents tours before or after the conference of up to eight days’ length, covering regions as dispersed as Canada’s easternmost provinces, the high Arctic, and Pacific fishing. The Canadian Organizing Committee for the 1979 conference reported to the Council that approximately 965 participants were present, along with some 200 accompanying persons and guests. The number in attendance was much higher than expected and "the staff was attempting to cope with the problems brought on by the unexpectedly high attendance.

In his Synoptic View of the Banff conference, President-Elect Theodor Dam summarized the program under the headings of Rural poverty; Marketing agricultural products; Using quantitative methods; Decision making/planning; Energy, ecology; Teaching/training agricultural economists; International co-operation, Relation between "politics" and research; and Interdisciplinary approach. Altogether almost 150 plenary, invited or contributed papers were presented, many of which were matched with prepared discussion openers. Moreover, 32 organized discussion groups on the same number of subjects met four times each during the conference, followed by group reports in a plenary session. As President Denis K. Britton in 1979 reflected on Fifty Years of Agricultural Economics – what next?, he anchored his “what next” discussion in what was already at that time a wide field of agricultural economics. The program for this 2018 conference in Canada reveals how much agricultural economists have further widened and deepened their field since then.

A comprehensive collection of material of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, including all its conference proceedings from 1929 onwards, is available at: https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/collection/108?ln=en.

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

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


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

Contact: Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)
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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.
NBER will cover the hotel and economy class travel cost for one author per paper and will pay a modest honorarium to the authors of each paper selected for inclusion on the program. All co-authors are welcome to attend the conference; space permitting, other participants are also welcome. The NBER provides breakfast and lunch each day. Anyone interested in attending the meeting, but who does not have a paper to submit, may click here. Please direct questions about this project to the NBER Department (confer@nber.org).

### IMPORTANT DATES

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<td>28 August 2018</td>
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<td>Final Call for Papers</td>
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<td>Deadline for Revised Papers Submissions</td>
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<td>6th AAAE Conference, Abuja, Nigeria</td>
<td>23-26 September 2019</td>
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Joke of the day

YOUR CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

HOW YOU PLANNED IT:

START

1. INTRODUCING YOURSELF
2. DESCRIBE OUTLINE OF TALK
3. MOTIVATION
4. METHODOLOGY AND EXPERIMENT DESIGN
5. RESULTS
6. CONCLUSIONS

APPLAUSE

ENGAGING Q&A

15 MINUTES

HOW IT GOES:

START

1. PREVIOUS SPEAKER RUNS LATE AND EATS INTO YOUR TIME.
2. TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES CONNECTING YOUR LAPTOP.
3. FORGET INTRODUCING YOURSELF.
4. MOTIVATION - SPEND WAY TOO MUCH TIME DESCRIBING YOUR OUTLINE.
5. ANNOYING AUDIENCE MEMBER INTERRUPTS WITH SELF-AGGRAVATING QUESTION.
6. REALIZE YOU ONLY HAVE 3 MINUTES LEFT.
7. POWER THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR 30 SLIDES.
8. AWKWARD SILENCE Q&A.

15 MINUTES