



XXXI

International Conference of Agricultural Economists



COWBELL

YOUR CONFERENCE BULLETIN

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iaae-agecon.org

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A mathematician, a theoretical economist, and an econometrician are asked to find a black cat (who doesn't really exist) in a closed room with the lights off. The mathematician gets crazy trying to find a black cat that doesn't exist inside the darkened room and ends up in a psychiatric hospital. The theoretical economist is unable to catch the black cat that doesn't exist inside the darkened room, but exits the room proudly proclaiming that he can construct a model to describe all his movements with extreme accuracy. The econometrician walks securely into the darkened room, spends one hour looking for the black cat that doesn't exist and shouts from inside the room that he has caught it by the neck."

IAAE THEMATIC GROUPS

We are heartened by the response to the call to express interest in Thematic Groups and thank you for your interest in being part of one or more such groups. The responses we received from you to date are organised in the table at this [link](#), showing both the breadth of themes and the extent of interest in different themes.

We are following the [Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's](#) successful example of forming such thematic groups, albeit with some modifications. AAEA expects 40 signatories members of the AAEA to petition to form an AAEA section which is then approved by the AAEA board. The section is expected to have defined objectives, mission, leadership and a defined membership fee structure of \$10 for membership per thematic group in addition to AAEA regular membership fees. Graduate students can join the section for free, but some sections charge student fees as well.

Our research of thematic groups further suggests that successful thematic groups/sections emerge when there is strong leadership within the thematic group. IAAE is happy to help foster their establishment and growth but urges first and foremost, identification of someone within the thematic group who will be willing to accept leadership, and starting with a small number of thematic groups initially, on a pilot basis, rather than being interested in just joining them. While 40 signatories to present a proposal to the board before the board agrees to establish a theme might be too much, we need a critical mass of members interested in continuing a section.

Are there volunteers to be leaders of one or two thematic group(s)?

IAAE is initially expecting ten members to be signatories to form a thematic group. Instead of expecting to charge fees, IAAE is willing to offer a budget of \$1,000 for a successful thematic group the first two years to get underway, after which IAAE expects the sections to be financially self-reliant, charging membership fees besides the regular IAAE membership fees.

Each IAAE section then defined leadership (Chair, chair elect, past-chair and sec/treasurer). The section leadership would usually pull the train and be fully engaged with the members,

AAEA's experience suggests that response/participation rates from members decline as the number of sections increases. Members are usually interested in non-competitive track sessions, and they can go and present their papers. Presentations are not always based on written papers and do not have to be loaded on the web. Presenters can be small, and they tend to love that.

We hope that each group will elect their leader, work out a plan of exchange among themselves, and solicit more members in areas where there is currently thin interest. That will determine the future sustainability of each thematic group. So the membership should continue to respond to our call, and we will continue to update the thematic group part of the website.

We will be sharing email addresses so members can begin to communicate among themselves as the first step.

For AAEA, EDI (AAEA's association management company) manages these sub-accounts/budgets of the thematic groups. AAEA expects sections to keep accounts for auditing purposes. The funds so raised are used by section leaders to organise small workshops, get-togethers of thematic members at AAEA's annual conferences, travel to conferences and awards. Some such arrangements will emerge in IAAE based on experience gained.

We wish you all the best in getting started with thematic groups with IAAE support. Please keep us in the loop via our communicationsdirector@iaae-agecon.org

Uma Lele,

President-elect

“Our research of thematic groups further suggests that successful thematic groups/sections emerge when there is strong leadership within the thematic group.”

Some proposed Thematic Groups

Food Systems	History of Agricultural Development	Rural Development
International Trade	Gender	Farm Management
Natural Resource Management	Public Governance	Agricultural Policy & Economic Development
Methodological advances	Climate Change	Agricultural Production Economics

Thematic themes formed by members with common interests will promote networking through activities such as, email discussions, listserv, pre- and post-conference workshops and track sessions at the triennial Meeting.

Once we form such groups (IAAE members) can join a section when renewing their membership or at any point in the year.

OUR SPONSORS



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS 2021



Awudu Abdulai, who grew up in a village in northern Ghana, is Professor and Head of the Institute of Food Economics and Consumption Studies, University of Kiel. He received his BSc from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and MSc and PhD degrees from ETH-Zurich. After stints at Iowa State University, Yale University and ETH-Zurich he relocated to Kiel. He was Cargill Visiting Professor at Stanford University (2010 - 2011). He served as Associate Editor (2000-2006) and has been Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Agricultural Economics* since 2012. He has also served as Associate Editor and board member of many reputable journals including the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and *Food Policy*. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists and a Fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Awudu has consulted for the World Bank, FAO, WFP, IFPRI, and the Bank of Ghana.



Karen Brooks: At the University of Chicago, as a National Science Foundation Fellow, Karen was encouraged to use her recent experience in the USSR to explore Soviet entry into world grain markets and the grain price spike of 1973-74. Initially on the faculty at The University of Minnesota and subsequently from the World Bank, she worked on agricultural reform in transition countries of Europe and Central Asia. In 2000, she moved to the World Bank's Africa Region and oversaw a reengagement of agricultural lending after decades of decline. She served as director of a CGIAR-wide research program 2012-18, on the IAAE Board 2015-18 and is currently an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. As a manager she has supported her colleagues, both men and women, balancing family and professional obligations, experience that she brings to the IAAE's International Committee of Women in Agricultural Economics. Throughout her professional assignments, IAAE has provided continued connection with colleagues and with new thinking.



Keith Fuglie is an economist with the USDA's Economic Research Service, where he has served as branch chief and conducts research on the economics of technological change and science policy in agriculture. Keith has also worked with the USAID Bureau of Food Security, the White House Council of Economic Advisers, and spent 10 years with the International Potato Center (CIP) based in Indonesia and Tunisia. One of Keith's important contributions to agricultural economics was his construction of a public database measuring agricultural total factor productivity by country and region for the world economy. This database has been widely applied in studies of agricultural growth, land use and climate change, and was featured in 2019 World Bank Report, *Harvesting Prosperity: Technology and Productivity Growth in Agriculture*. Keith received an MS and PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota and a BA from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.



Thomas Hertel is Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, where his research and teaching focus on international trade, food and environmental security. Over the course of his career, he has changed the way policy analysis on these topics is undertaken by developing collaborative databases and shared modeling tools. Dr. Hertel is a Fellow (2004), and a Past-President (2011), of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). He is also a Fellow of the AAAS (2017). Hertel is the founder and Executive Director of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) which now encompasses more than 21,000 researchers in 175 countries. Professor Hertel has supervised 46 PhD students from two dozen countries who have gone on to influential careers in academia and public sector agencies. Hertel has received awards for research, teaching and policy from AAEA, as well as outstanding paper recognitions from AARES and the Ecological Society of America.



Thomas Jayne's career has been devoted to supporting African governments and research units to address their own development challenges. Thom is University Foundation Professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. He is a Fellow of the *Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)* and the *African Association of Agricultural Economists*. His works span numerous topics, including food marketing and price policies, land policies, sustainable agricultural intensification, youth employment, and economic transformation. He has mentored dozens of young African professionals and consistently supported the development of African agricultural policy research institutes. Since 2019, Jayne has been seconded to the African Development Bank, serving as Special Advisor to the President. Thom has received six research excellence awards, including the 2009 Outstanding Article Award in *Agricultural Economics* and the 2017 *AAEA Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis*.



Johann Kirsten is Professor in agricultural economics and Director of the Bureau for Economic Research at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. He was Professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Pretoria for 20 years. Johann has served as Secretary-Treasurer, President and Past President of the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa and is currently the editor of its journal, *AGREKON*. Johann attended his first IAAE conference in 1994 in Harare and has attended each IAAE conference since then. He was co-chair of the local organizing committee for the 2003 IAAE conference in Durban and facilitated the session that led to the establishment of the African Association of Agricultural Economists. He served as IAAE Vice-President Program, responsible for the 2009 conference program in Beijing.



Agnes Quisumbing is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC. She has published widely on gender, intrahousehold allocation, women's empowerment, property rights, poverty, and economic mobility. Her early work at IFPRI tested models of household decision making using primary data from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, and her native Philippines. The evidence rejecting the unitary model of the household contributed to the design of programs targeting resources to women worldwide. She has conducted longitudinal studies following individuals and households over time, analyzed gendered patterns of asset accumulation and risk-sharing. She has developed metrics for evaluations of agricultural development projects to examine their impacts on gender asset inequality and women's empowerment. She is a co-developer of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (proWEAI). She has served on the editorial boards of *Agricultural Economics*, *Food Policy*, and *World Development*. For more information see her [webpage](#) or [CV](#).



Thomas Reardon is University Distinguished Professor at Michigan State University and Fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Tom has been at MSU since 1992; IFPRI Research Fellow 1986-1991; Rockefeller Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow with IFPRI & ICRISAT in Burkina Faso 1984-1986. His Ph.D. was from UC Berkeley in 1984. Tom studies the transformation of food value chains: the "supermarket revolution" and the "Quiet Revolution" (by SMEs in the midstream of value chains), and their impacts on farming, consumption, and employment in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Tom is among the most cited agricultural economists globally. He has done extensive field research in all three regions for 40 years with 21 years directly in residence. [His work](#) is recognized beyond academia: it has been featured on Page 1 of the *New York Times*, and he was the first agricultural economist invited to the World Economic Forum in Davos.



Claudia Ringler is Deputy Division Director of the Environment and Production Technology Division at IFPRI as well as Deputy Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems. Her research ideas and insights have been made possible through collaboration with partners in Southeast Asia--where she lived several years--as well as in East, South and Central Asia, Latin America and the Middle East; and more recently in Sub-Saharan Africa; as well as through collaboration with biophysical scientists which she considers central to good economic analysis. Claudia published more than 100 journal articles in the areas of global water and food security, with a more recent focus on gender, nutrition, climate change and energy. She has a PhD in agricultural economics from the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at University of Bonn and an MA in International Development Economics from Yale University. For more information see her [webpage](#) or [CV](#).



Johan Swinnen served as IAAE President-Elect/President/Past President from 2009 to 2018. He joined KU Leuven in 1992 and was professor and director of the LICOS Centre at KU Leuven (Belgium) and senior research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies from 2004 to 2019. He is currently Director General of IFPRI, and Global Director of the Systems Transformation Science Group at CGIAR. Dr. Swinnen earned his PhD from Cornell University and holds honorary doctorates from University of Göttingen and the Slovak University of Agriculture (Slovakia). He is a Fellow of AAEA and the European Association of Agricultural Economists. Dr. Swinnen has published extensively, and is widely cited, on agricultural and food policies, international development, political economy, institutional reforms, trade, and global value chains. For more information see his [webpage](#) or [CV](#).

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Honorary Life Members is the Association's **Highest Honor** and reflects sustained contributions by its recipients to research in agricultural economics and services to the discipline.

The first cohort of Honorary Life Members (HLMs) was named during the 15th ICAE Conference held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1973.

The following is a list of all the Honorary Life Members of the IAAE since 1973.

2018	2015
Kym Anderson, Australia Shenggen Fan, China Alain de Janvry, USA Scott Rozelle, USA Elisabeth Sadoulet, USA Gerald Shively, USA David Zilberman, USA	Julian Alston, USA Derek Byerlee, USA Jikun Huang, China Uma Lele, India Philip Pardey, USA Eugenia Serova, Russia Wallace Tyner, USA
2012	2009
David Colman, UK Keijiro Otsuka, Japan Nick Vink, South Africa Malcolm Wegener, Australia	Walter Armbruster, USA Willis Oluoch-Kosura, Kenya Prabhu Pingali, India Joachim von Braun, Germany
2006	2003
Douglas Hedley, Canada Arie Kuyvenhoven, Netherlands Michele Veeman, Canada	Kirit Parikh, India Jock Anderson, Australia Csaba Csaki, Hungary Lauren Martens, Belgium
2000	1997
Alberto Valdes, Chile Wilhelm L. Nieuwoudt, South Africa D. Gale Johnson, USA John W. Longworth, Australia	Yujiro Hayami, Japan Michele De Benedictis, Italy John Dillon, Australia Vijay Vyas, India
1994	1991
R. J. (Jim) Hildreth, USA Erly Dias Brandao, Brazil J. Owen Jones, UK Bernard (Bud) F. Stanton, USA XiJi An, China	Theodor Dams, Germany Ferenc Fekete, Hungary Glenn L. Johnson, USA Dusan Tomic, Yugoslavia Keizo Tsuchiya, Japan
1988	1985
Dennis K. Britton, UK C. C. Chang, China Ulf Renborg, Sweden T. W. Schultz, USA	Denis Bergmann, France Keith O. Campbell, Australia M. L. Dantwala, India Kazushi Ohkawa, Japan
1982	1979
Walton J. Anderson, Canada Don Paarlberg, USA Samar R. Sen, India	F. F. Hill, USA Ryszard Manteuffel, Poland Nils Westermarck, Finland
1976	1973
Edgar Thomas, UK John R. Raeburn, UK Max Rolfes, USA Harry Trelogan, USA	Sherman Johnson, USA Joseph Ackerman, USA

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NEWLY ELECTED IAAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2021-2024

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Matin Qaim: Matin Qaim is a Professor of International Food Economics at the University of Goettingen, Germany. His main research interests relate to food security and sustainable development, focusing on agriculture-nutrition linkages and the role of technical and institutional change. He has served the IAAE Board of Directors (2018-2021) as a Member-At-Large, and the broader profession in various capacities. Matin’s vision is to make the IAAE a “home” association for all scholars interested in economics and/or social sciences

perspectives on sustainable food systems and the broader bioeconomy in low-, middle-, and high-income countries to increase IAAE’s visibility beyond the agricultural economics discipline.

SECRETARY-TREASURER



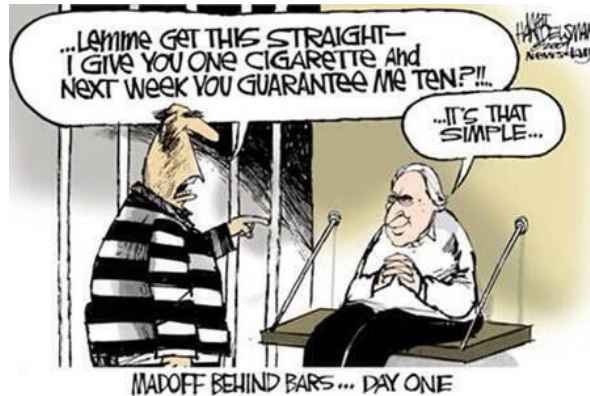
Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel: Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel has served as Secretary-Treasurer since 2015. He has held the chair for Agricultural Policy at the University of Göttingen since 1999. He was editor of Agricultural Economics, the official journal of the IAAE, from 2000 to 2006, organized the contributed papers for the IAAE triennial conference in Beijing in 2009, and was a Member-at-Large on the IAAE Board of Directors from 2012 to 2015. Stephan’s research focuses on the analysis of agricultural policies

and the empirical study of price transmission and market integration. As Secretary-Treasurer, Stephan is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the association’s activities. He promises to continue to do his best to ensure that IAAE operations run smoothly in both more and less challenging times, to keep IAAE on course and facilitate projects and activities that benefit members.

KEY STAFF

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NEWLY ELECTED IAAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2021-2024

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE



Tahirou Abdoulaye: Tahirou Abdoulaye is an Agricultural Economist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). He is the Director for the IITA Sahel Hub based in Bamako, Mali. His research work covers a wide range of rural economic issues, including seed systems, farm-level efficiency and technology evaluation and transfer. His more recent research interest focuses on innovation systems and how they can help increase technology uptake by smallholder farmers. Tahirou promises to leverage the opportunities and responsibilities that come with board membership,

to give back to the association through the direct work of the Board as well as mentoring new young members. As a firm believer in diversity, which has for many years pushed him to the association, which he opines has strength in its diversity, he promises to work to preserve and reinforce this diversity of membership, issues, and topics.

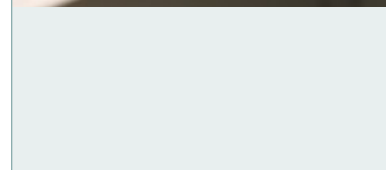


Jill McCluskey: Jill J. McCluskey is Regents Professor and Director of the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University. McCluskey's research focuses on product quality and reputation, sustainable labelling, consumer preferences for new technology, and representation of women in STEM. She is an incoming Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, past President and Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and Fellow of the Western Agricultural Economics Association. Jill wants to see IAAE create more opportunities to expand research and collaboration, including additional inter-conference symposia and other events. She promises to work with multilateral organizations to obtain resources for people in developing countries to participate at IAAE meetings and initiate research collaboration and exchange of knowledge. She believes that IAAE could remain attractive to new members while maintaining current members by providing professional outlets, information and exciting research, opportunities for professional recognition at all levels, and networking opportunities.



Wendy J. Umberger: Wendy J. Umberger is a Professor of agriculture and food economics in the School of Economics and Public Policy and is the Foundation Executive Director of the Centre for Global Food and Resources at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Wendy is a Distinguished Fellow of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) and served as AARES President from 2016-2017. Wendy believes that for IAAE to remain relevant for current and future members, the association must continue to adapt by understanding the members' heterogeneous needs and consider opportunities to attract new members. She believes

there are opportunities to provide additional value to members and grow and diversify membership without significant additional investment, primarily through collaboration with other professional associations/societies to offer smaller focused conferences, symposiums and workshops, including virtually, to increase accessibility. Wendy would like to further operationalize newer IAAE initiatives such as the "thematic groups" and the International Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (ICWAE). As a Board member, she desires to help address the dynamic and unique needs of members, raise the profile of the IAAE, and ensure that the association is inclusive and diverse.



IAAE's ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT
COMPANY

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event + association + creative

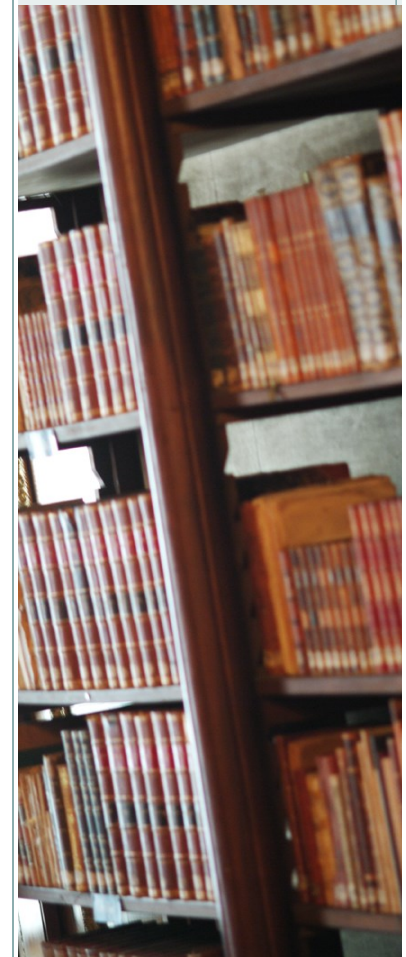
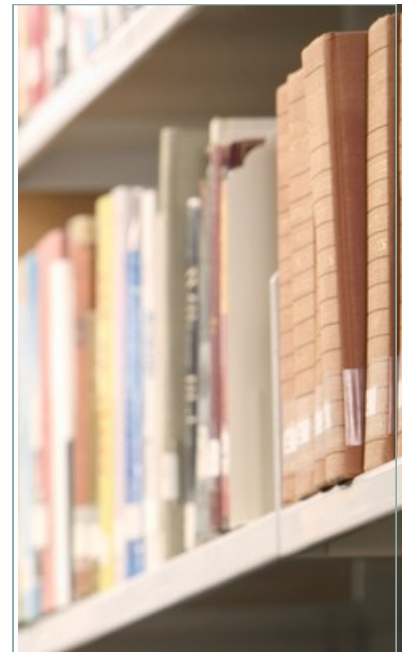
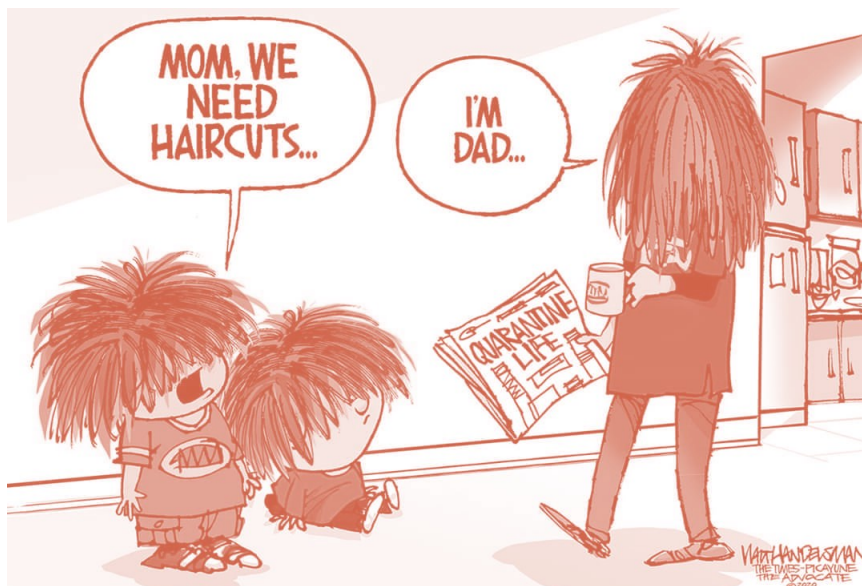
Managing Matters is proud to be a partner of IAAE. Since June 2020, we have been extremely proud to work with IAAE by managing the headquarters of the association, and providing support to both the board and membership at large.

Managing Matters is an accredited Association Management Company, based in Toronto, Canada, providing management and event services to professional associations internationally.

Reach out to us if you're a volunteer and think your association might benefit from some help.

We'd love to hear from you!

Just
for
laughs



ABOUT IAAE

The IAAE is a worldwide professional membership association of agricultural economists, whose mission is to promote the common business interests of economists having as a major focus of their work, the study of the economics of agriculture. iaae-agecon.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



INVITATION TO IAAE BUSINESS MEETING

All IAAE members are invited to attend the Association Business Meeting which will take place on **Sunday, August 22nd at 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM**, immediately following the Honorary Life Members ceremony. The Business meeting is an opportunity to find out more about IAAE activities and finances, to ask question and to make suggestions. We look forward to your participation.

International Association of Agricultural Economists

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The last pages of the **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
<communicationsdirector@iaae-agecon.org>

by 11h00 (11am) EDT of the day before publication.

Editor: Jeffers Miruka

Send announcements to communicationsdirector@iaae-agecon.org