THE GLOBAL BIO-ECONOMY

Throughout history, agriculture and natural resources have been used for the production of food, feed, fiber, fuel, and environmental goods. Recent developments in demand (both in terms of quantity and quality), technology, and traditional energy and chemistry markets have reinforced the demand for non-food applications. These developments, in combination with increased consumer demands for various food characteristics, have led to a rapidly growing and globally integrated bioeconomy.

At the same time, many of the “old problems” remain, and some, such as the need for solutions to global hunger and poverty and for sustainable natural resource management, have been re-enforced. In addition, recent global food and financial crises have brought “old questions” back to life, such as on the role of the state in regulating domestic and international markets.

The International Association of Agricultural Economist's 2012 triennial International Conference of Agricultural Economists will address these changes, their effects and the best ways to face the challenges. The conference will bring together leading experts in these areas from around the world and provide a forum for exchange of ideas and new insights. Brazil is an excellent location to host such a conference. It has long embraced the new bio-economy and is now a very important global player in many aspects of it, while facing the associated challenges.

In addition to the opening ceremony and the Elmhirst lecture and Presidential Address, the ICAE program will include five plenary sessions, a series of invited panels, contributed sessions (with both visual and oral presentations) and symposia for discussions, all on topics related to the conference theme.

Important Dates
- Website open for submissions: July 1, 2011
- Deadline for submissions: November 1, 2011
- Authors informed of outcome of selection process: March 1, 2012
- Deadline for registration for the conference for presenting authors: June 1, 2012
- ICAE dates: August 18 to 24, 2012
- Pre-conference and learning workshops: Saturday, August 18, 2012
- Official opening and first plenary session: Sunday, August 19, 2012
- Post-conference workshop: Friday, August 24, 2012 (afternoon)
SUBMITTED PAPERS
Jo Swinnen, IAAE President Elect, invites submission of manuscripts for contributed papers. Alfons Weersink will manage the contributed papers process.

There will be a unified submission process for all papers. All submitted papers will be subject to a blind peer review. Submitting authors will be asked to indicate their preference for presentation, either oral or visual (poster) and papers that pass the review process will be accepted either for oral or visual (poster) presentation. All accepted papers will be considered refereed contributions and accorded equal status.

There are no restrictions on co-authorship. However, each co-author will be allowed to present only one accepted paper (oral or visual presentation) at the conference. The deadline for submission of contributed papers will be November 1, 2011. Corresponding authors will be informed of the outcome of the review and selection process by March 1, 2012. The presenting authors must register for the conference before June 1, 2012; otherwise the paper will be withdrawn from the conference program.

ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA
Organized symposia will be an important feature of this conference and members are hereby invited to submit proposals for these before November 1, 2011. Organized symposia will be 2 hour sessions which can involve short paper presentations, debates, roundtable meetings and panel discussions of prepared questions. The program committee will also welcome any innovative format as long as the organizer justifies how it fits into a tightly coherent theme. The emphasis of the symposia will be on discussion and at least half of the session time should be reserved for debate and participation of the audience.

Pre- and Post-Conferences and Learning Workshops
Members are hereby invited to submit proposals for pre-conference and learning workshops. The deadline for proposals is November 1, 2011.

Website for Submissions
A website for submitting contributed papers, as well as proposals for pre-conference workshops and symposia, will be available as of July 1, 2011 (linked from the conference website, www.itarget.com.br/icae2012).
BRAZIL
Brazil is located in South America, and is made up of 26 federal states divided into 5,565 municipalities and one Federal District. With its 8.5 million km², representing 47% of the whole South American continent, and with around 190 million people, it is the fifth largest territorial area in the planet, boasting the world’s fifth largest population. Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas, besides being one of the most multi-cultural and ethnically diverse nations in the world, the result of a strong immigration of people from many countries.

FOZ DO IGUAÇU
Foz do Iguaçu (pop 250,000) is located in the southwestern region of the state of Parana at 183m above sea level, just at the border with Argentina and Paraguay. Its most important attraction, the Iguassu Falls (considered one of the natural wonders of the world), are located in the Iguassu National Park, a magnificent wildlife reserve of 240,000 hectares (185,000 are on the Brazilian side and 55,000 on the Argentinean side) consisting mostly of sub-tropical rainforest.

RAFAIN PALACE HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER, ACCOMMODATIONS
The Rafain has 210 luxury apartments and 14 suites, 63 thousand m² of leisure area with 3 swimming pools, 1 air-conditioned Jacuzzi, 2 society football pitches, tennis court and multi-sport court. The convention center offers modern spaces, multifunctional and flexible, which are subdivided in up to 25 conference rooms and 18 support rooms.

Nearby hotels will provide additional accommodations, with a range of prices to meet the needs of all delegates. Details will be available at a later date on the conference website.