Moving Forward

Having completed an extremely successful conference in Beijing last August, the Executive Committee has begun considering plans to further strengthen our IAAE activities and networks. I am extremely fortunate to be able to work with our exciting new president elect, Jo Swinnen of the University of Leuven, and the accomplished new members of the Executive Committee: Elizabeth Sadoulet (UC Berkeley), Simeon Ehui (World Bank), and Shenggen Fan (IFPRI), in addition to David Colman (University of Manchester), Walt Armbruster (Farm Foundation), and Jerry Shively (Purdue University), who will continue to serve as committee members. As is well known and was clearly attested to in Beijing, Jo Swinnen is an active, innovative, and energetic researcher and leader in the development field. As president elect in charge of the Brazilian conference in 2012, I have no doubt that he will make a novel and important contribution. The other Executive Committee members are all well respected and highly motivated, and, hence, there is no question that we will be able to work effectively for the coming years.

Although we have decided on Foz do Iguaçu as the site of the Brazilian conference in 2012, there are a few options as to the choice of the conference center. Accepting the invitation of the Brazilian Local Organizing Committee represented by Joaquim Bento, Walt Armbruster and I plan to visit Foz do Iguaçu this coming April to help them decide on the specific conference venue.

Needless to say, eradicating rural poverty is one of the main goals of our research in agricultural economics. Unfortunately, however, rural poverty remains persistent and widespread, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. It is my belief that agricultural economists must contribute to poverty reduction not only by collecting relevant data, analyzing them, and identifying the constraints on agricultural growth, but also by designing appropriate development strategies. To be frank, our performance in this latter area remains weak. We agricultural economists must strive to identify effective development strategies conducive to poverty reduction. Our African colleagues have been very active in this research area and the newly founded African Association of Agricultural Economists is actively supporting them. While IAAE is an association of agricultural economists with a wide range of professional interests going well beyond development, IAAE is willing and prepared to support the African Association by participating in its third conference to be held in Cape Town in September, 2010. At present, Simeon Ehui is enthusiastically communicating with the organizing committee of the African Association to coordinate our support for the event.

IAAE will also continue to collaborate with other associations. We will organize a symposium on climate change and agriculture in collaboration with IFPRI at the AAEA conference to be held in Denver, July 25-27, 2010. Despite his busy schedule as the new director general of IFPRI, Shenggen Fan is coordinating this symposium. In addition, we have already discussed IAAE’s participation in the conference of the Asian Society of

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Agricultural Economists to be held in Hanoi in the fall of 2011. We are particularly keen about the collaboration with this association as the presence of Asian members in Beijing was not as strong as we had hoped. There is obviously a serious need to revitalize the relationship between IAAE and ASAE. Much more challenging is how to strengthen the network with researchers in Latin America, not only because the next conference is to be held in Brazil, but also because the Latin American Association has not been active over the past few years. To ensure the great success of the Brazilian conference, we must work closely with leading members from Latin America. We are developing an interference symposium to be held in Columbia during 2011 as one strategy to strengthen our presence in the region. We would also like to improve the gender balance in our association. For this purpose, I have requested that Betty Sadoulet activate an IAAE thrust to help stimulate research on gender issues. In addition, we also need to maintain our strong collaboration with the European Association.

Ultimately, my goal as the president of IAAE is to strengthen collaboration and networking among agricultural economists worldwide, with a view to stimulating research that is vital to solving such critical issues as poverty reduction, gender equality, climate change, land reform, and agricultural trade. To attain this goal, I sincerely hope to receive strong support for and participation in our activities from all IAAE members.

Keijiro Otsuka
President

* News from the Editorial desk of Agricultural Economics

At the Beijing meeting in August, we initiated a new annual award for best article in Agricultural Economics. The inaugural award for papers published in 2008 was won by David Stifel and Bart Minten for their work in Madagascar entitled “Isolation and Agricultural Productivity.” The award for best paper published in 2009 will be presented in conjunction with the IAAE Executive Committee meetings this summer in Cape Town, South Africa. Stay tuned for that announcement!

The Beijing meetings also featured standing-room-only attendance for our first New Author Workshop, co-hosted by IAAE and Elsevier. The event was led by Colin Poulton, Managing Editor of Food Policy, and by Will Masters of Agricultural Economics. The two editors compared their approaches and responded to a wide range of questions. One memorable quote from Colin Poulton: “A common mistake is to think that novelty, by itself, can justify publication. Being the first to do something is not a reason to do it.” Readers of Agricultural Economics will know that we share that same criterion. Both journals focus on papers that solve real problems; they differ mainly in disciplinary content, as we target quantifiable economics research and Food Policy includes many other types of policy analysis.

* In this post-conference year, three issues of the journal will feature papers presented in Beijing. The upcoming double issue (Volume 41, issues 3 and 4) contains the best contributed work and is being edited by Bernhard Bruegger and Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel. Volume 41 will also feature the third post-conference “Blue Book” of invited papers to be published as a supplement issue, edited by Johann Kirsten and Kei Otsuka.

* Regular submissions to the journal are continuing at a rapid clip, and we thank all our authors, associate editors and referees for their many contributions. We are especially pleased to see more than half of our articles accompanied by data archives, to help others replicate and build on these papers. Please visit the IAAE website and click through to our Annual Report for details.

Looking ahead, a major new focus for 2010 is to facilitate broader access to the journal. For IAAE members, access through the Association website is now much improved. With a few mouse clicks you can see all contents from any computer. We are also sharply increasing the number of libraries with institutional access by including Agricultural Economics in more of the bundled collections to which they already subscribe. As always, we look forward to hearing from you, by email at agriecon@purdue.edu or through our websites listed below.

Will Masters and Jerry Shively
Co-Editors-in-Chief, Agricultural Economics

General information: www.iaae-agecon.org/journal/journal.html
Journal contents: www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/agec
Article submission www.editorialexpress.com/agecon

AAAЕ Conference

The 3rd International Conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAЕ) is scheduled for Cape Town, South Africa, September 20-23, 2010. See the Association website, www.aaaе-africa.org, under Conferences for details on paper submissions and various deadlines.
IAAE BUSINESS CONTINUED

Continue to Receive Membership Benefits

To continue to receive this Newsletter, the IAAE journal Agricultural Economics and the special issue of the journal containing the Proceedings of the Beijing conference, you must be a paid member for the 2008-2010 period. If not paid by March 31, 2010, you will not receive further issues of Agricultural Economics, including the selected article issues and the supplement proceedings issue for the Beijing conference.

IAAE Web Site Job Postings

Requests for job postings, along with a check for $200 for each listing for international or regional organizations and $300 for postings from other organizations, should be sent to the IAAE office at: 555 E Wells St., Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202 U.S.A. Postings of up to 300 words will generally be linked to the complete job posting on the organization’s own website and maintained for 90 days maximum.

Agricultural Economics Back Issues Needed

Wiley-Blackwell is interested in scanning the earlier issues of Agricultural Economics to be made available electronically. We wish to put together a complete set of pre-2000 issues that could be destroyed in the process of scanning. If you, or someone you know, are willing to donate some or all back issues, please contact Walt Armbruster (walt@farmfoundation.org) to determine how best to send them to Wiley-Blackwell. IAAE will arrange to have the costs reimbursed for shipping.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Membership for 2008-2010 conference period includes an electronic subscription to Agricultural Economics: The Journal of the IAAE.

My income is: _____ more than US $50,000 (dues US $160); _____ between US $20,000 and $50,000 (dues US $130); _____ under $20,000 U.S. (dues US $75)

$ __________________

To receive hard copies of Agricultural Economics: The Journal of the IAAE, add $105 to the normal dues for the three-year period for your income category.

$ __________________

Total Payable to IAAE $ __________________

Membership fees can be paid on-line through the IAAE Web site: http://www.iaae-agecon.org.

☐ A check payable through a U.S. bank, to IAAE for US $ __________________

or

☐ Charge to credit card: _____ MasterCard _____ Visa

Please type or print carefully:

Card number________________________________________

Expiry Date: ______ Signature: __________________________

Name ______________________________________________

(Family Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

Address (including country)

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Include country and city access codes:

Telephone: _______________________________________

Fax: ____________________________________________

E-Mail: __________________________________________

If you wish to be listed in the membership directory as being from a country other than your mailing address, please indicate which country:

_______________________________________________________________________

Return this form to:

International Association of Agricultural Economists
555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI, 53202 U.S.A.

IAAE member lists include telephone, fax and e-mail (including city and country access codes). All membership payments should include the above information.
International Conference on Data Mining in Agriculture and Environment

The Center for Applied Optimization, University of Florida and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Crete, will organize the International Conference on Data Mining in Agriculture and Environment to be held July 1-3, 2010.

The conference is an opportunity to meet specialists from universities and scientific institutions around the world and discuss the latest developments in data mining and knowledge discovery in agriculture and environment.

The Conference will be hosted by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, which is located in Crete, 3 km south-east of Chania city centre, 13 km from the airport and 2 km from the port of Souda. The deadline for final registration is June 15, 2010.

Registration fees*

Early Registration: before May 31, 2010 400 US dollars (280 Euros)
Late registration: after May 31, 2010 570 US dollars (400 Euros)

*Registration fee includes: Admission to all sessions, conference bag with book of abstracts, coffee breaks, welcome reception, gala dinner, lunches during the conference days and transportation from the designated hotels to/from MAICh.

Selected presentations from the conference proceedings will be published in the International Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Information Systems.

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For more information please visit http://www.ise.ufl.edu/cao/CAODM2010/index.htm

Climate Change in World Agriculture: Mitigation, Adaptation, Trade and Food Security

The symposium will take place in the castle on campus of the Universität Hohenheim, June 27 - 29, 2010. Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany. It is jointly sponsored by IATRC and the University of Hohenheim.

The objective of this symposium is to bring together agricultural economists and other scientists working on linkages between climate change and the food and agricultural sectors. Participants will analyze and discuss the state of the art in research methods used in analyzing these linkages, as well as the options for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change with a focus on the role of agricultural trade.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission: March 22, 2010
Author Notification: April 5, 2010
Early registration deadline: May 3, 2010
Deadline Papers: June 14, 2010

Registration

Participants are kindly asked to pre-register by May 3, 2010. Pre-registration and registration will be available through the symposium website at: www.iatrc2010.uni-hohenheim.de
For detailed information about submissions, conference plans and registration, see the IAAE webpage (http://www.iaae-agecon.org/) under Conferences.

IAAE Newsletter

The IAAE Newsletter (ISSN 1052-5815) is published semiannually by the International Association of Agricultural Economists. Ideas and information for the August 2010 issue must reach the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer’s office by August 10, 2010 (address on Page 1). Every effort will be made to include the material provided. IAAE reserves the right to select and shorten items for publication.