



April 2015

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International Association of Agricultural Economists

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to imagine but this is my last letter as President of the IAAE to you. Time flies.

It's been two and a half years since our congress in Iguacu, Brazil. Much has happened since. President Obama got re-elected in the USA, and Francis became the new Pope. Typhoons hit the Philippines and Vietnam, killing thousands of people. Edward Snowden released secret information and fled to Russia. The Arab Spring turned into a dark conflict in North Africa and the Middle East. Demonstrations against the Ukrainian government resulted in the annexation of Crimea by Russia, the downing of an international passenger flight and continued fighting.

The international markets look quite different today than in 2012. Food prices were pretty stable between the summer of 2012 and the spring of 2014 and have declined since – following oil prices – not much evidence of dramatic price increases or volatility ...

Today is four months before our next congress in Milan, Italy. We received a record number of submissions of papers and sessions for the Milan meeting. Will Martin, IAAE President-Elect, and Don McLaren, chair of the contributed papers program, have worked hard with many of you as reviewers to select the best papers and sessions. I am pleased to inform you that Professor Daron Acemoglu of MIT, author of the best-selling "Why Nations Fail" and recipient of the Bates Clark Medal, has accepted to give the Elmhirst Lecture. I also have the honor and pleasure of announcing that, besides the traditional TW Schultz Award, the Nils Westermarck Award, and the Uma Lele Award, there will be the Carl Eicher Award for the best Doctoral Thesis on African agricultural economics.

In the meantime we have also been busy raising funds for financially supporting as many developing country participants as possible. With generous support from a number of donors we will be able to fund a substantial number of our colleagues from developing countries to join us in Milan.

Important transitions in the IAAE Board of Directors will take place in Milan, as a new President Elect, three new Members-at-Large, and a new Secretary-Treasurer will join. As of January 1, 2015 Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel has taken over from Walt Armbruster as interim Secretary-Treasurer until elections are held. Beside a new Secretary-Treasurer, you will also have the opportunity to vote on nominees for President Elect and for three new Members-at-Large. For the first time, the elections will take place electronically in advance of the next conference: during the period June 1-30, 2015. IAAE members who have paid for the 2014-2016 conference period by May 31, 2015 will be eligible to vote.

I look forward to seeing you all in Milan in August, if not before.

Jo Swinnen
President

IAAE BUSINESS: Upcoming 29th ICAE in Milan

29th International Conference of Agricultural Economists – August 8th-14th, 2015 in Milan, Italy

The 29th International Conference of Agricultural Economists will be held in the wonderful northern Italian city of Milan, venue of 2015 World Expo. The New York Times has recently placed Milan as first on its list of 52 places to visit in 2015.

The Conference will take place in the most ancient building of the University of Milan, located in the city center. Built in the XV century, the University is organized around a main cloister with its Renaissance portico and baroque loggia, surrounded by eight smaller, wonderful courtyards. The plenary hall is newly renovated, and all of the rooms used for the conference contain the latest audiovisual equipment. We will use two attractive cloisters for visual presentations of Contributed Papers.

The academic program for the conference is nearing completion. Plenary sessions will examine key questions such as:

- (i) Information technology and agricultural development
- (ii) Behavioral economics and economic policy
- (iii) Agriculture and nutrition
- (iv) Climate change and agriculture
- (v) Changing farm structure

Invited Sessions and Organized Symposia will cover the full gamut of topics in agricultural economics, allowing exploration of many topics in everyone's area of interest. A set of innovative sessions will break new ground in terms of session format, including sessions structured as Oxford Union-style debates and as hard talk interviews. A record number of Contributed Papers—all evaluated through a rigorous, double-blind review process—will present the results of the latest research in all areas of interest to members of our profession.

Please also consider coming a day or two early for one of the nine pre-conference sessions being held on August 8th. As detailed on the conference website, these sessions cover:

- (i) Agricultural economics research institutes and agencies – a leaders' view
- (ii) Applied computational economics
- (iii) Food security in the context of climate change

- (iv) Global food security challenges (August 7th - 8th)
- (v) Innovations in agricultural data collection
- (vi) The Italian agricultural and food system
- (vii) Megafarms in developed and developing countries
- (viii) Policy analysis for food losses and waste
- (ix) Using R for agricultural economics research

The 2015 World Expo dedicated to the theme of “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” will be open from May 1st to October 31st. Running for 184 days, this giant exhibition site, over one million square meters, is expected to welcome more than 20 million visitors. Eight million tickets have been already sold which make us think that the Expo will be an extraordinary success. Discounted tickets for this event can be purchased from the conference website. **For this reason we strongly recommend that participants book hotels as early as possible, and preferably not later than the end of April 2015.** More information is available on the conference web site.

Registration for the 29th ICAE is now open. Note that only IAAE members can participate in the Conference and you must provide your membership code when registering. Detailed information on joining or renewing your IAAE membership is available on the official IAAE website (www.iaae-agecon.org). The deadline for the early registration fee is May 15th, 2015. For information related to registration, such as the early fee and regular fee amounts, please see the conference web site (<http://icae2015.org/>). All paper presenters must register and upload their papers by June 15 to be included in the final program.

Thirteen scientific tours will be organised on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 11th. The tours will lead the participants to discover an extraordinary array of very special production sites related to agriculture and food industry. This includes, for example, typical Italian rice farming, Grana Padano cheese and Italian “prosciutto”, some of the most famous wineries of the Lombardy region, some high technology prepared food for retailers. And of course, a Beeronomics tour and an EXPO tour.

We are looking forward to meeting you all at this exciting event.

ELECTIONS: IAAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Between June 1st and June 30th, 2015, all IAAE members will be able to vote electronically for the members of the new IAAE Board of Directors, which will take office for three years at the close of the upcoming ICAE in Milan. Elections will be held for the positions of President Elect, Secretary-Treasurer and three Members-at-Large. The Nominations Committee has prepared a slate of nominees for these positions, and members will be informed about these nominees and the voting procedures in early June. **Only members who are paid in full for the 2014-16 conference period as of May 31st, 2015 will be eligible to vote, so renew your membership soon and participate in these important elections!**

JOURNAL BUSINESS

Ashok Mishra will join Awudu Abdulai as Co-Editor of *Agricultural Economics* as of July 1, 2015, replacing Jerry Shively, who has been Editor since 2006. We are extremely grateful to Jerry for his nine years of service, and we look forward to working with Awudu and soon Ashok in the years to come.

PROPOSALS TO HOST 2021 ICAE

The IAAE Board of Directors invites proposals to host the 2021 International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE). A Local Organizing Committee (LOC), operating under the auspices of a national or regional association of agricultural economists, leads the planning of all logistics involved with holding the ICAE. This includes selecting a location, arranging for hotels, booking the conference site, organizing mid-week tours during the ICAE, and all other details of hosting the ICAE. Normally much of the detailed work is contracted by the LOC to a local conference management organization. The LOC works closely with the IAAE President Elect, who is responsible for developing the program of the ICAE, and the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer, who assists with financial management.

Interested parties may obtain additional information about the general content of the proposal needed by the IAAE Board of Directors, the responsibilities of the LOC and the IAAE respectively related to planning an ICAE, and a sample budget from Secretary-Treasurer Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel (iaae@gwdg.de). This information will help the potential LOC understand the elements of the conference which must be budgeted to set an appropriate registration fee, and to prepare its proposal. Proposals must be received by IAAE (IAAE@execinc.com) not later than June 30, 2015.

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, 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.

IAAE Newsletter

The IAAE Newsletter (ISSN 1052-5815) is published semiannually by the IAAE. News Alerts are published periodically to provide new information. Information for the **September 2015** issue must reach the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer's office by September 10, 2015 (contact on Page 1). Every effort will be made to include the material provided. IAAE reserves the right to select and shorten items for publication.