



March 2020

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International Association of Agricultural Economists

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of the IAAE,

We live in interesting times. At the time of our last Newsletter in September 2019, very few people in the world knew about the coronavirus, and even fewer about COVID-19. Now the typical newspaper, TV news broadcast or other online source has virtually no sport coverage because there is no sport to cover, the entertainment section is about who has been infected, where and how, and there is little to distinguish between the stories in the Health, Politics and News sections.

Our lives, whether we live in China, India, the USA, Europe or Africa, South America or Oceania, have changed completely. We hardly travel, we can't (or don't) go to restaurants or the movies, the way we worship and study has changed fundamentally, and many industries (especially those dependent on tourism) have come to a complete halt. The food from home industry (i.e. when food is prepared in your home) is one of the few that have not seen its business dry up overnight. Food supply chains, upstream and downstream, and farming, have taken on a special significance in these troubled times, and are arguably as important as the provision of medical services.

How then, can and will Agricultural Economics researchers react to the pandemic? First, we need to understand the changes that are taking place across the world food system. As always, these changes will be driven by changes in the magnitude and patterns of the demand for food and its attributes: food for survival, comfort food, food for a healthy lifestyle, etc. Will people in the developed world who have to stay at home for extended periods eat more, or less? Will they eat more high value products (fruit and vegetables) or more "unhealthy" foods? Will poor people all around the world switch to a higher proportion of staples in their diets? Will the demand for more perishable food types (meat, dairy, etc.) increase or decline? How will this affect the actual and relative prices of food types?

These changes are going to affect the many and intricate value chains that bring food to the consumer and that span across the globe. Logistics systems of transport and communication are being affected, as are activities as disparate as processing plants, trade patterns and the actual act of buying food. Will the food system be able to serve the most vulnerable: the elderly and the ill in all parts of the world, people who live in the poorest countries, small farmers, etc.? We should also not forget that the people who make this system work are expected to go about their daily business while the rest of us stay at home.

(continued...)

When I started writing this message, global infections had reached 382 431, with the death toll at 16569. By the time I finished the first draft, it was 382 570 and 16579. In South Africa, there were more than 400 infections and no deaths. What will these numbers look like when you read this Newsletter – probably at home in the middle of a lockdown? What will the effect be on the global food system? Time to put on our thinking caps and make a contribution!

Best regards, Nick Vink

31st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

“AGRICULTURE UNDER THE 4th INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION”

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21-25, 2021

The 31st International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) will be held in New Delhi, India, from August 20 (pre-conference workshops) to August 25, 2021.

Theme: The theme of ICAE 2021 is “Agriculture under the 4th Industrial Revolution”.

“We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. We do not yet know just how it will unfold, but one thing is clear: the response to it must be integrated and comprehensive, involving all stakeholders of the global polity, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society.” (Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum, January 14, 2016).

We are living in times of an unprecedented global pandemic and a global economic crisis of gigantic proportions. The times call for an exceptional response.

Program: This triennial conference of the IAAE provides an opportunity for discussion and debate on issues of concern to everyone interested in how agricultural economics can address these unusual challenges. The conference program is being developed by the IAAE President-Elect, Uma Lele (Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, Umalele1@gmail.com). Opportunities for participation include: Several Plenary Sessions that address the changing course of history, Invited Sessions, Organized Symposia and Contributed Papers – both oral and visual. Pre-conference workshops on Friday August 20 will be followed by the main conference from Saturday August 21 through Wednesday August 25.

Paper submissions will open on July 31, 2020, with conference registration opening on March 15, 2021.

Local organisation information: The conference will take place in the recently built state-of-the-art conference facility at the Pusa campus of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi, accompanied by a range of choices on accommodations. Legend has it that Delhi was preceded by a thriving city around 1400 BC, named Indraprastha, the capital of the Pandavas, in one of two Indian epics, Mahabharata. Delhi was the seat of the Moghul Empire from the 12th century, with a short interlude from 1770s to 1911 when the British moved the capital to the Port city of Calcutta. New Delhi contains many imposing buildings built by British architect Edwin Lutyens for modern India, and has been the capital of independent democratic India since 1947, home to modern institutions such as the Parliament.

The Pusa campus is adjacent to historic monuments, museums, large parks and shopping areas of India’s traditional arts and crafts. With easy access to the many activities and cultural events of the city, enjoy a spectacular experience in a culturally diverse and historically rich India of 1.3 billion people, with many pre- and post-conference travel opportunities, ranging from historic Delhi, to the iconic sites of the Taj Mahal and Rajput palaces, to coastal Kerala at the tip of South India where the Portuguese explorers visited the Maharajas of the times and the Southern, Central and Eastern states that have historically mounted challenges to all governments in power.



The National Organising Committee in India is chaired by the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Extension and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr T. Mohapatra. The Executive

Secretary of the conference is Dr. Suresh Pal, Director of National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research. (spl.econ@gmail.com).

Visit the conference website www.aeraindia.in/icae2021/ for more information and to sign up for conference updates. Follow us on Twitter @ICAE_2021 and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ICAE2021>.

Important dates:

- Paper submissions open: July 31, 2020
- Registration opens: March 15, 2021
- Pre-conference workshops: August 20, 2021
- Conference: August 21 - August 25, 2021

Mark your calendars, and see you in New Delhi!



IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium: *The Role of the Agribusiness Sector in the Sustainable Development of Latin American Economies*. Montevideo, October 7-9, 2020

The Argentinean, Chilean, and Uruguayan Agricultural Economics Associations and the International Society for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (ISEPA) invite you to the IAAE-Inter-Conference Symposium and 6th Congreso Regional de Economía Agraria entitled “*The Role of the Agribusiness Sector in the Sustainable Development of Latin American Economies*” which will be held on October 7th to 9th, 2020 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Inter-Conference Symposium seeks to provide an expanded regional network for agricultural and applied economists from all over Latin America and beyond focusing on the role of the agribusiness sector in the sustainable development of our rural economies. Providing a platform for discussion, exchange and networking, we are looking to strengthen our profession in the region.

The Argentinian, Chilean and Uruguayan regional associations in collaboration with the IAAE will invite the authors of the best presentations at the Inter-Conference Symposium to prepare full papers for possible publication in a special issue of *Agribusiness: An International Journal*.

The newly formed ISEPA, affiliated with the *Journal of Productivity Analysis* (JPA), encourages all of its many Founding Members and future regular membership to participate in this Inter-Conference Symposium. Top papers will be welcome for submission to a Special JPA issue on Latin American economic issues relating to efficiency and productivity.

For more information see the conference website at <http://iaae-montevideo2020.com/>. The call for papers can be seen under <http://www.iaae-agecon.org/UserFiles/file/Callforpapers.pdf>, and the deadline for submission of abstracts is April 30th, 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS

IFAMA 30th World Conference 2020 ***Rotterdam, June 15-18, 2020***

From June 15th to 18th, 2020, the *IFAMA2020* conference will take place in Rotterdam, home of the biggest port in Europe. At *IFAMA2020* today’s pressing food and agricultural challenges will be addressed drawing upon the triple helix expertise of academics, business and government. Societal and human development challenges and goals mean that companies in agrifood need to transform, impacting their daily operations but also their future strategies.

The conference will host multiple stakeholders of the global food system and include academic, business as well as combined (discussion) sessions and panels. Moreover, we expect around 30 international student teams to compete in the renowned IFAMA student case competition.

For more information on the *IFAMA2020* conference, see <https://ifama2020.org>.

The IAAE Board invites applications for the position of Communications Director

The IAAE Board is looking for a young individual who will help us make the best possible use of today's information and communication technologies to interact with and provide services to our members around the world. This includes, but is not limited to ensuring that our website remains up-to-date and improving our use of modern technologies and social networks during and between our triennial Conferences.

We are committed to investing to improve our performance in this area, and are thus looking for someone who will help us develop and implement an appropriate strategy. We will provide our Communications Director with a core budget to enable him/her to attend our annual Board meetings, and he/she will be welcome (expected!) to develop and implement a communications plan and corresponding budget.

Please submit your application, including a CV and your ideas for developing the IAAE's communications strategy, by June 30th, 2020 to Stephan von Cramon (iaae@gwdg.de).

IAAE Website 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 up to 90 days.

The IAAE Newsletter

The IAAE Newsletter (ISSN1052-5815) is published semi-annually by the IAAE. News Alerts are published periodically to provide new information. The next IAAE Newsletter will be published in **September 2020**. Information for the September 2020 issue must reach the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer's office by September 1, 2020 (iaae@gwdg.de). Every effort will be made to include the material provided. IAAE reserves the right to select and shorten items for publication.