Dear members of the IAAE,

In the previous Newsletter I spoke about our Inter-Conference Symposia as an important outlet that IAAE can, in fulfilling its mission, partner with to provide platforms where members can share views and experiences that emanate from their research. Meetings of regional Agricultural Economists Associations are another such platform, and IAAE Board members regularly attend such meetings.

This year, for example, we held our IAAE Board meeting on September 22nd in Abuja, Nigeria, to coincide with the triennial conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE). This is the fourth time that our Board meeting has been held to coincide with these meetings, and it has been a revelation to see how the AAAE has grown. From an attendance of 60 at its inaugural meeting in 2004 (after the IAAE meetings in Durban in 2003), attendance increased to over 400 in Addis Ababa in 2016. While attendance in Abuja was lower, the levels of enthusiasm were not. From some 200 contributed paper submissions in Cape Town in 2010 to around 420 in Addis, the harvest in Abuja was significantly higher at 477 papers, of which some 220 could be accommodated on the program. As with our IAAE conferences, all papers were peer reviewed and then subsequently streamed into Oral and Visual presentation modes.

Board members also participated in an Invited Panel, with Stephan von Cramon, Uma Lele and Will Martin presenting papers on their current research. The result was an eclectic choice of topics, from bee pollinator abundance and richness in India to a comparison of structural transformation processes across countries to agricultural research in Rwanda. Our Member-at-Large Cheryl Doss provided the keynote address on rural households, and proved her mettle by calmly proceeding with her presentation while surrounded by the chaos of arriving dignitaries and the general rearrangement of people on the stage to accommodate the shifting VIP protocols! In Abuja, Cheryl Doss and Uma Lele were made Fellows of the AAAE.

Our friends at the Gates Foundation and from the CGIAR system were crucial to making the AAAE conference in Abuja a success. The Gates Foundation provided $100 000 to support 50 young scholars, selected through a competitive process, to attend the conference. The Gates Foundation, though its representatives Joshua Ariga (also Editor, together with Suresh Babu, of the AAAE’s journal, the African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics) and Alan Rennison, also hosted a plenary session and a round table discussion on ways to prioritize policies for agricultural transformation. The approach of the CGIAR institutions was a bit different: they encouraged their staff to submit papers and Organized Symposia proposals in the competitive process that these followed. The result was a clear improvement in the average quality of papers accepted for the conference, as these mostly young authors made up a disproportionate share of accepted papers.

All in all, the Abuja meetings were a great opportunity to learn more about the Agricultural Economics research agenda in Africa, and to meet young and eager scholars from the continent. We know from experience that we will see many of them again at our next IAAE Conference in Delhi in two years’ time.

Best regards, Nick Vink
Nanjing Agricultural University (NJAU) is hosting an IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium which will take place in Nanjing, China, from November 11th to November 13th, 2019. The theme of the symposium is “Small-holder Farms in Market Integration: Lessons and Experiences from Asia and Other Developing Countries”. The symposium will include invited keynote speeches, organised sessions and contributed paper sessions.

A preliminary program of the Symposium and further information are available online under http://www.iaae-njau.org/. Plenary speakers and session organisers include David Orden, Jikun Huang, Justin Lin, Shenggen Fan, Uma Lele and Will Martin. 60 papers from 18 countries have been accepted for presentation in 15 contributed paper sessions. So this promises to be an informative and stimulating event. The deadline for online registration is October 31, 2019. Together with our partners at NJAU, we look forward to seeing you in Nanjing!

**Call for Papers: IFAMA2020 Conference in Rotterdam**

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.

The IFAMA2020 organizers invite you to submit a paper abstract by the October 15, 2019 deadline. For information on paper submissions and on applications for organized sessions, teaching cases and the student case competition, see https://ifama2020.org.

**Walter Armbruster Appreciation Club**

At its 2019 Meetings in Atlanta, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Trust established a Walter Armbruster Appreciation Club (https://www.aaea.org/trust/appreciation-clubs/walter-armbruster). As Secretary-Treasurer of the IAAE for 22 years from 1993 to 2015, Walt Armbruster provided invaluable service to our Association, overseeing a series of very successful International Conferences, establishing and nurturing our solid financial base, and guiding us towards our new Bylaws and organisational structure in 2012. So it is only natural that IAAE quickly agreed to become a Charter Member of Walt’s Appreciation Club. We congratulate Walter Armbruster for this well-deserved recognition of his many contributions to our profession, and thank him once more for his service and dedication to the IAAE.

**2021 IAAE Conference Delhi, India, August 21-25, 2021**

The planning for the 2021 International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) in Delhi has begun!

The theme of the 2021 ICAE 2021 will be “Global Agriculture’s Response to Rapid Multifaceted Technological Change”. The ICAE will kick off with pre-conference workshops on August 20th, followed by the Conference itself from August 21st to August 25th. It will include a host country program organized by the Indian Local Organising Committee on August 23rd, as well as post-conference tours. Be sure to mark these dates in your calendars!

We have received an extraordinary response from women in agricultural economics leading us to form a Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE/IAAE), following the trend in many professional associations in recent years. The CWAE will be formally launched at the Delhi ICAE in 2021, and it is already helping to shape the conference program. For the second time in the association’s history (after Foz do Iguaçu in Brazil in 2012) we will have women participants in every major plenary and invited panel. We will also start training and mentoring for young researchers.

The Plenary and Invited Paper Sessions at the Delhi ICAE will include the following themes:
Food, health and nutrition transition. There is an increasing recognition of the relationship between food and health but the research on these issues is limited.

Sustainable agriculture, climate change and water scarcity. How are countries responding?

Trade talks and trade wars. While agricultural trade has grown, the traditional liberal order is under increasing threat. What next?

How is digitization affecting rural finance, insurance and savings, agricultural input industries, farm-scale adoption, value added and supply chains?

Bio-economy has become an engine of growth, but also a source of disruptive innovations. What policies are countries adopting?

Gender and agriculture going forward. This plenary will discuss various dimensions of gender and agriculture including land rights, labour markets, food security and agricultural productivity.

Examples of Pre-Conference Workshops include:

- Financing agricultural R&D. The rapid technological change underway in many fields stresses the need for financing R&D in the public and private sectors. Theories of agricultural and rural transformation emphasise that growth in agricultural productivity is a key stimulant for overall economic growth, transformation and poverty reduction. No country has achieved a major reduction in poverty without undergoing such a transition. And yet R&D financing growth has slowed in recent years. A workshop will explore the latest state of affairs on financing and policies which affect the financing of R&D.

- Engendered economics. With male migration to urban areas, women’s roles in agriculture are changing. The number of women enrolled in agricultural colleges has increased, but women benefit less from mentoring and networking than their male counterparts. Cheryl Doss (jointly with IFPRI) will provide a half-day training session for young (male and female) researchers and a half-day workshop on gender in economics.

- Experimental and behavioural economics. This workshop will introduce participants to new methods in this exciting area.

One Invited Session that is foreseen is “One hundred years of agricultural economic research and policy influence: The Food Research Institute (FRI)”. Established in 1921, the FRI was closed in 1996, but it continues to contribute to agricultural policy through its research. This session will explore FRI’s 100 years of policy research, influence and lessons for other institutions.

IAAE members are very welcome to share more such ideas with me at umalele1@gmail.com. A call for papers and announcement of further organisational details for the 2021 ICAE in Delhi will be made in the next Newsletter in March 2020.

On behalf of the IAAE Board, I look forward to active member participation from all corners of the world!

Uma Lele, President Elect

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 it 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 November 30th, 2019 to Stephan von Cramon (iaae@gwdg.de).

IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium
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 sus-
tainable 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.

The website for abstract submission will open on January 15th, 2020. This website will also provide information on the venue in Montevideo and the organisation of the Symposium. The deadline for submission of abstracts will be April 30th, 2020.

### 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 **March 2020**. Information for the March 2020 issue must reach the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer’s office by March 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.