



June 2019

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## International Association of Agricultural Economists

# Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of the IAAE,

The mission of our Association is to provide platforms where members can report on research, exchange ideas, and build expertise in analytical techniques, etc. To this end we provide three main platforms: our journal (*Agricultural Economics*), our Triennial Conferences, and our Inter-Conference Symposia. We have possibly not been sufficiently proactive in using a fourth option, namely the internet and its social media applications, but this has not been for lack of trying, and remains a priority of the Board.

The first Inter-Conference Symposium was held in China in 1986, and the second in Namibia in 1990. A total of eight were held between 1986 and 1999. These symposia are typically regional gatherings dedicated to more focused topics of interest. The IAAE itself is an interested participant in these occasions. The Board sees them as more than just an academic platform, but also as an occasion to introduce the IAAE to regional scholars who may not have the opportunity to attend our larger Triennial Conferences, to support and encourage regions whose membership in the Association is low or declining, to provide input into Triennial Conferences, and to test the capacity of local organizers to host a larger conference. For this reason, when the Board agrees to co-host an Inter-Conference Symposium, it also commits funding (typically in the order of \$20,000), and sponsors Board members' participation where feasible.

We have recently seen a number of very successful Inter-Conference Symposia where one or more of these objectives have been met. These include the India Society of Agricultural Economics – IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium in Hyderabad in 2014, and the joint Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay) – IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium in Talca, Chile in 2017. The latter event, which was titled “Climate change, productivity and sustainable water resource management”, corresponded with the 5<sup>th</sup> regional triennial conference of the Southern Cone Association. We will follow up with another Inter-Conference Symposium when the 6<sup>th</sup> regional triennial conference takes place in Montevideo in October 2020.

Later this year there will be another Inter-Conference symposium in Nanjing, China (November 11-13), with the theme “Small-holder Farms in Market Integration: Lessons and Experiences from East Asia”, organized by Nanjing Agricultural University and IAAE (see the detailed announcement and call for papers below). 2020 will also most likely see a Symposium in partnership with the African Association of Agricultural Economists, planned for Kigali, Rwanda.

Our Association welcomes proposals for Inter-Conference Symposia, and is willing to put in a lot of effort to ensure that they are successful. We are not always in a position to sponsor them, and we are also not always in a position to participate, but they are an important part of our portfolio of services. Anyone dreaming of hosting one of these, on its own or as a possible precursor to a Triennial Conference is welcome to open discussions with the Board.

Best regards, Nick Vink

## INTER-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM: *SMALL-HOLDER FARMS IN MARKET INTEGRATION* NOVEMBER 11-13, 2019, NANJING, CHINA

Nanjing Agricultural University (NJAU) and the IAAE **call for paper submissions** for an IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium which will take place in Nanjing, China from November 11<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Agriculture is a dominant sector in many of the world’s poorest countries, with over 70% of the population of these countries living in rural areas and the vast majority making their living on small farms or as landless workers. In developing countries, small-holder farms predominate in traditional agricultural forms, which are generally characterized by intertwined farm and family decisions. Historical patterns of agricultural growth in these countries exhibit remarkable differences across countries and over time. Many of these differences are attributable to natural resource endowments, technological progress, efficiency improvement, human capital, and institutions. Despite these differences, agriculture dominated by small-holder farms shares many similar challenges during economic transformation. Agricultural transformation is normally driven by productivity increase and specialization following technological innovation, changing demand following income growth and demographic change, and expansion of industrial and commercial capital into the agri-food chain. Identifying innovative and successful practices for coping with the challenges of transformation from country cases will help all small-holder farms. For regions that are dominated by small-holder farms, including much of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, there is enormous demand for solutions from global experiences.

**Issues** expected to be addressed in the symposium include (but are not limited to):

- Food supply and availability;
- Landscape of agriculture;
- Rural microfinance;
- Agricultural market integration;
- Labour migration;
- Agricultural supply chain;
- Technology adoption;
- Rural development;
- Agri-environmental regulation for sustainable development; and
- Land and water management.

**Organised sessions** will highlight ideas or work-in-progress on topics involving cooperative efforts by two or more panelists, and may offer discussions of policy issues, research methods, emerging research results, issues in professional organization, or other matters. Proposals should include: session title, session rationale, names and contact information for the organizer and other participants, and a description of the session format that includes plans for discussion. **Contributed papers** for presentation will be selected based on submitted two-page abstracts. Abstracts should include research question, method, contribution and major conclusion. The **deadline** for submission of proposals for organised sessions and contributed paper abstracts is July 31, 2019. Please submit your proposals and abstracts to [cem@njau.edu.cn](mailto:cem@njau.edu.cn) (cc: [yuezhiming@njau.edu.cn](mailto:yuezhiming@njau.edu.cn)), and indicate “Session/Paper Submission to IAAE-NJAU” as the email subject.

**Registration fee and logistics:** The registration fee is RMB 675 (approx. \$US100), including meals during the conference and field trip expense. Travel and lodging expenses are expected to be covered by participants. Sponsorship will be provided to a number of participants from low-income countries with accepted contributed papers.

### **Important dates**

- Deadline for organized session proposal or contributed paper abstract: July 31, 2019
- Author Notification: September 15, 2019
- Deadline for registration on website: October 31, 2019
- Arrival and registration: November 10, 2019
- Conference sessions: November 11-12, 2019
- Conference field trip: November 13, 2019
- Departure: November 14, 2019.

We look forward to your submissions and to seeing you in Nanjing!

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Call for Papers: GlobalFood Symposium 2020 in Göttingen

The Fourth GlobalFood Symposium will be held at the University of Göttingen in Germany on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The aim is to discuss new research findings and policy challenges related to the global agri-food system transformation. The two-day event will feature plenary sessions with invited speakers, contributed paper sessions, and posters. Confirmed speakers include Chris Barrett (USA), Jessica Fanzo (USA), Jill Hobbs (Canada), Miet Maertens (Belgium), Catherine Ragasa (USA), Tom Reardon (USA), Lucia Reisch (Denmark), Jo Swinnen (Belgium), Rob Vos (USA), and David Zilberman (USA).

We invite submissions for contributed papers and posters from all researchers working on related topics from an economics and/or social science perspective. Topics include supply chain management, linking smallholders to markets, contract farming, food standards and trade, food security and poverty, nutrition transition, and sustainable consumption. All submissions should be in the form of an extended 2-page abstract to be submitted via the GlobalFood website (<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/globalfood>). The submission deadline is November 15, 2019. All submissions will be peer-reviewed. Authors will be notified of the decision by January 15, 2020. The top three submissions by junior researchers will be selected for presentation in plenary sessions.

Participants will have to cover their own travel costs plus a 50 EUR registration fee (which includes access to all sessions, coffee breaks, lunches, and one conference dinner). We will try to make available a few travel stipends for accepted contributions from developing-country doctoral students.

Scientific committee at Göttingen: Matin Qaim (chair), Yasemin Boztug, Achim Spiller, Meike Wollni.

#### 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 **October 2019**. Information for the October 2019 issue must reach the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer's office by September 30, 2019 (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.