



October 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Will Martin, President

International Food Policy Research Institute
2033 K St NW, Washington DC 20006
Email: w.martin@cgiar.org

Nick Vink, President-Elect

University of Stellenbosch
Department of Agricultural Economics
Private Bag X1, Matieland 7600 South Africa
Email: nv@sun.ac.za

Johan Swinnen, Past President

LICOS Centre for Institutions
and Economic Performance, KU Leuven
Waaistraat 6
Leuven 3000, Belgium
Email: jo.swinnen@econ.kuleuven.be

Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel Secretary-Treasurer

University of Göttingen
Department of Agricultural Economics
Platz der Göttinger Sieben, 5
37073 Göttingen, Germany
Email: iaae@gwdg.de

Karen Brooks, Member at Large

International Food Policy Research Institute
2033 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006, USA
Email: k.brooks@cgiar.org

Julian Alston, Member at Large

University of California
Dept. of Agricultural & Resource Economics
1 Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616, USA
Email: julian@primal.ucdavis.edu

Steven Were Omamo, Member at Large

World Food Programme
Via C.G. Viola 68/70
Rome 00148, Italy
Email: stevenwere.omamo@wfp.org

Awudu Abdulai, Editor

Chair of Food Economics and Food Policy
Dept. of Food Econ. and Consumption Studies
University of Kiel
Olshausenstrasse 40, 24098 Kiel, Germany
Email: abudula@food-econ.uni-kiel.de

Ashok Mishra, Editor

Louisiana State University
Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
128 Martin D. Woodin Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA
Email: Ashok.K.Mishra@ASU.edu

International Association of Agricultural Economists

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of the IAAE,

Since 1929, the members of our Association have been meeting roughly every three years for the International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE). We are now at one of the most exciting times for our Association, as the academic program and the local arrangements come together for our next conference—the 30th ICAE to be held in Vancouver, Canada, July 28 -August 2, 2018.

Thanks to the great work of our President-Elect, Nick Vink, the academic program for Vancouver is coming together. It will be a terrific program, around the theme of “*New Landscapes and New Mandates for Agriculture*”. We are enormously fortunate to have the distinguished Canadian economist and winner of the John Bates Clark Medal, Professor Dave Donaldson, of MIT, as the Elmhirst Lecturer. More details of the program will be forthcoming over the coming months.

As in the past, the program will involve a combination of Invited Papers and Contributed sessions. The Call for Papers and Organized Sessions has gone out. Please see subsequent pages of this Newsletter, and the Conference website, for more details. An innovation of particular interest to young scholars will be a mentoring program event to be held the day before the main conference (see below).

The local arrangements for the conference are looking wonderful. Our indefatigable Local Organizing Committee has arranged a terrific program of events that take advantage of Vancouver's superb location. They have also arranged outstanding options for accommodation, study tours and networking dinners. Please take a look at the conference website for more details, and to make your bookings.

The Association's journal, *Agricultural Economics*, has gone from strength to strength in recent years under the excellent leadership of its editors, Awudu Abdulai and Ashok Mishra. Each year, we give a prize for the best article in the journal. This year, the prize went to “Consumer sorting and hedonic valuation of wine attribute: Exploiting data from a field experiment” by Christopher Gustafson, Travis Lybbert and Dan Sumner. Next time you have a great paper to submit, please consider sending it to *Agricultural Economics*.

An ICAE Inter-Conference Symposium will be held in Talca, Chile 17-20 October, 2017. This meeting will bring together agricultural economists from across Latin America—and from outside the region—to discuss pressing challenges facing agriculture in this critically important region.

On a sadder note, one of the giants of our profession, Hans Binswanger-Mkhize died on August 4. Please find an Obituary by Prabhu Pingali and Gershon Feder, recognizing his contributions, in this issue of the Newsletter.

I hope that work is progressing well on your paper(s) for the 30th ICAE in Vancouver next year, and look forward very much to seeing you there.

Best regards,

Will Martin

30th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS
"NEW LANDSCAPES AND NEW MANDATES FOR AGRICULTURE"
VANCOUVER, JULY 28th to AUGUST 2nd, 2018
– CALLS! –



Call for Submission of Contributed Papers (Oral and Visual)

The paper submission process is open and has been announced on the conference website (<http://www.icae2018.com/>). The deadline for submission is **noon GMT on January 15, 2018**. In order to submit your paper, you will need to adhere to the following rules:

1. **Full papers** must be submitted in Microsoft Word ® or pdf and must be anonymous and include an abstract of no more than 200 words.
2. A separate cover sheet should give the title of the paper, the name(s) and affiliations of the author(s), any acknowledgements and three JEL codes in order of relevance.
3. Papers must be no more than 8500 words in length.
4. Papers must be presented by one of their authors, and an author may present only one paper in an Oral session. The submitting author will also be asked to describe her or his personal fields of expertise using at least three JEL codes in order of expertise.
5. Submitting authors will have to commit to the following:
 - That their work adheres to the strictest ethical standards.
 - That they will review up to four other papers for the conference.
 - That the presenting author is, or will become, a member of IAAE.
 - That the paper does not cite articles published in predatory journals.

Call for Submission of proposals for Organized Sessions

Proposals for Organized Sessions will be considered at the same time as Contributed Papers. Space on the program for these sessions is limited, and the organizers expect to invite no more than 48 of these sessions.

Expressions of interest to organize such a session should consist of a 2-page (maximum) proposal, and should include the following:

1. A short title that clearly describes the theme of the session.
2. Full contact information for the organizer.
3. A brief statement of motivation for the session, including the potential audience.
4. A description of the proposed format of presentation. Proposals for sessions that will use innovative formats are especially welcome.
5. Names, contact information, and short bios of the proposed session participants.

A key consideration for selection will be confirmation that the session participants have agreed to participate. The selection committee reserves the right to reject proposals for which all the proposed participants fail to confirm their intent to participate.

Once an Organized Session has been selected for the program, all participants will be required to be members of the IAAE, and will be required to register and pay for the Conference.

Please note also that no member of the IAAE will be allowed to participate in more than two Organized Sessions.

Call for Submissions for the IAAE 2018 Carl K. Eicher Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation

Family, friends and colleagues of the late Carl K. Eicher established a fund under the IAAE to support an award for the best doctoral dissertation in our discipline on Africa to honour his outstanding contributions to African agricultural research and education. The second award will be made at the International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Vancouver in July/August, 2018, and will consist of a cash prize and partial travel support to attend the conference. The IAAE is now calling for nominations for the award.

- Any Department of Agricultural Economics (under any name variant) or Department of Economics or allied discipline with a specialization in Agricultural Economics can present nominations.
- Nominations should be made by either the Chair of the Department or the principal Supervisor of the nominee.
- All doctoral dissertations relating to agricultural economics (according to the JEL classification) applied to an African problem (defined according the FAO classification of African countries) are eligible.
- Doctoral dissertations must have been completed during the years, 2015, 2016 or 2017.
- Each nomination must include a cover memo of a maximum of two pages on why the dissertation has been selected for nomination.
- Each nomination should include an electronic copy of the dissertation.
- Nominators **MUST** provide the IAAE with the name of a recognized Agricultural Economist who has agreed to serve as a member of the Review Committee to select the winning entry. Review Committee members will be asked to review three dissertations in the first round, and then to review the three dissertations that scored the highest in a second and final round.
- Nominations should be sent to the Coordinator at jock.r.anderson@gmail.com by **midnight GMT on January 26th, 2018**.

The Coordinator of the 2018 Carl K Eicher Award is Prof. Jock R. Anderson, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA

Call for Submissions: Pre-Conference Workshop on Capacity Building and Quantitative Food System Analysis

Background: Food systems are interlocking networks of relationships that encompass the entire range of functions and activities involved in the production, processing, marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries (FAO, 2013). This includes inputs required and outputs generated at each step. The scope of food systems thus extends beyond physical food commodities, to cover the goods and services required for food production, transformation, and consumption – i.e., agronomy, farm input provision, product harvesting, transport, storage and handling, processing, finance, wholesaling, retailing. Security, political, policy, and climatic factors affect the cost and efficacy of these functions and activities.

Food systems lie at the core of economic growth and poverty reduction. In the long run, the food system is a key element of structural transformation, which historically has been the only sustainable pathway out of poverty. In the short run, the food system is the arena in which many of the poor make their living, and where they face risks to their livelihoods.

Food systems everywhere are changing rapidly and deeply because of urbanization, income growth, and shifting consumer diets brought on by broader structural transformation of economies. Supply chain integration, capital-intensive technology change, expanded use of digital devices, internet access, and emergence and enforcement of private standards of quality and safety are spurring and accentuating the upheavals. Many of these fast-transforming food systems are disrupted by covariate shocks, including those linked to climate change and economic globalization, while a significant number are broken due to strife and conflict, sometimes for long periods. In extreme cases, food systems are arenas of oppression, subjugation, and abuse of power.

However, even in relatively stable contexts, food systems can be deeply flawed by systemic problems. Communication, transportation, and storage facilities are often poor. Commercial markets – which are the primary channels through which most food is accessed – can be sharply segmented, with access restricted for large numbers of people lacking purchasing power. Highly unequal social capital and financial bargaining power is often brought to exchanges between buyers and sellers. The spectre of over 800 million chronically hungry people across the globe suggests that food systems do not always function in ways that meet the needs of a broad cross section of society.

A number of fundamental questions remain unaddressed. These include:

1. How is food system performance most effectively measured – i.e., what are the most relevant and powerful indicators?
2. What are most effective methodologies and tools to capture, track, and assess system performance?
3. What are the key determinants and drivers of food system performance in different contexts?
4. How can systemic problems in food systems be most effectively identified and quantified?
5. How is systemic change – both positive and negative – most effectively analysed?
6. What is the role of modelling, and which modelling approaches are most effective?

Against this background, the Workshop will have two aims: (1) To provide early career professionals seeking a career in Food Systems Analysis the opportunity to interact and exchange views and advice on strategies for professional growth and enrichment with more senior academics and practitioners, and (2) To build understanding of issues, challenges, and opportunities for quantitative analysis of food systems. The workshop methodology will support both objectives simultaneously, aiming to sow the seeds of a theme-based professional development initiative under the IAAE.

Objectives: There is an urgent need for greater clarity on facts, concepts, and options for improvement of food system performance through investment, institutional innovation, and policy reform for performance-enhancing systemic change (in different contexts).

The Workshop seeks to address this need by:

1. Raising awareness of major policy and programming issues facing food systems in different contexts;
2. Sharing the latest approaches and methods for food system analysis;
3. Identifying the major factual and conceptual gaps limiting progress in food system analysis; and
4. Identifying the core building blocks (or thrusts) of a rigorous quantitative research and capacity development agenda.

Methodology: Participation will be open to all registered attendees, up to a maximum of 50 people. The Workshop will be built around inputs from two categories of specially invited participants:

1. 15 young professionals (below 30 years of age on the date of the workshop) who present their work and benefit from discussions and advice from senior professionals. These young professionals will be offered competitive travel grants awarded on the basis of a concept note that addresses one of the three sub-themes: (1) key facts about food systems; (2) core concepts about food systems; and (3) tools and models for analysing food systems.
2. Senior professionals who offer expert feedback and advice and mentor the three groups of young professionals, and help to identify the elements of the research and capacity development agenda.

We are therefore calling for submissions from young professionals on any of the sub-themes mentioned above. The submission should be in the form of a conference paper (i.e. a maximum of 8000 words, in the style and format followed by our journal, *Agricultural Economics*, and should be submitted electronically to stevenwere.omamo@wfp.org by no later than **midnight GMT on 26 January 2018**, indicating "Food Systems Pre-Conference Workshop Submission" as the subject of the message.

Please note that submissions to this Workshop may not also be submitted as Contributed Papers to the Conference itself.



OTHER BUSINESS

JOURNAL BUSINESS

It has been another year of success for the IAAE journal, *Agricultural Economics*. The highlights include:

The paper selected from 2016 for the best article award was "Consumer sorting and hedonic valuation of wine attribute: Exploiting data from a field experiment" by Christopher Gustafson, Travis Lybbert and Dan Sumner. Plaques were presented to the authors in August 2017 at the AAEA conference in Chicago.

Our sincere thanks go out to the entire editorial team for their service and commitment to our community of scholars. The editorial team can be found listed on the journal's web site:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291574-0862/homepage/EditorialBoard.html>

We have continued to deal with the rising tide of submissions. The number of submitted manuscripts increased last year, with 606 new submissions and 133 resubmissions, for a total inflow of 840 manuscripts. The number of papers ultimately accepted was 81 in the past year. Based on 840 papers submitted or resubmitted, and 81 papers accepted, the annual acceptance rate stood at 10%.

The journal's impact and popularity continue to grow. In June 2017 the ISI 2016 Impact Factors were released. The one-year Impact Factor for *Agricultural Economics* increased marginally from 1.738 in 2015 to 1.759 in 2016. For

2016, the 5-year JCR impact factor for *Agricultural Economics* increased from 1.70 in 2015 to 2.009 in 2016.

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.

As usual, we look forward to hearing from you, by email at aabdula@food-econ.uni-kiel.de or through our websites listed below.

Awudu Abdulai and Ashok Mishra
Co-Editors, *Agricultural Economics*

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

IN MEMORIAM HANS P. BINSWANGER-MKHIZE 1943-2017

Hans P. Binswanger-Mkhize, a distinguished leader of the agricultural economics profession worldwide, passed away in Pretoria, South Africa, on August 4, 2017. He is commonly described as a giant in our profession, both for his vast body of seminal research contributions as well as for his long career as a development practitioner par excellence.

Hans was born in 1943 to a prominent Swiss family that oper-

ated a psychiatric clinic as well as a farm, and he chose agricultural economics as his calling. He received a PhD. in Economics from North Carolina State University in 1973 and then spent a year at the University of Minnesota under the mentorship of Vernon Ruttan. Hans then moved to Hyderabad, India in 1975 to help launch the Economics Program at the newly established “International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)”. Hans’ direct exposure to the hunger and rural poverty problems that India and other developing countries were facing at that time, had a profound and lasting impact on his career as an agricultural development economist. In particular, it motivated his life-long focus on improving the welfare of small farms in developing countries.

In the course of a brilliant career spanning over four decades Hans made outstanding research contributions across the breadth of themes in agricultural economics and rural development: technological change, farmer behavior under risk, land policy and land reform, supply and demand of agricultural commodities, natural resource management, community driven development, agricultural mechanization, food policy, and more. His impact as a path-breaking researcher is evident in the 20,000 Google citations to his numerous publications. The AAEA recognized these achievements by electing Hans as a Fellow in 1998, and two of his research articles received the prestigious “Quality of Research Discovery” award. The American Association for the Advancement of Sciences had similarly elected Hans as a Fellow in 2002. North Carolina State University recognized his professional achievements with a “Distinguished Alumnus” award in 2001. He received the Elmhirst medal from the International Association for Agricultural Economists in 2006. The lasting influence of Hans’ research is reflected in the fact that articles he published more than two decades ago are still cited frequently in current studies.

Hans’ research accomplishments are matched by his contributions in the area of policy advice and rural development operations on the ground. In the course of his 24 years of service at the World Bank, his assignments included the management of units engaged in supporting rural development activities and investments in the Latin America and Africa, as well as senior advisory roles. In performing these functions Hans skillfully incorporated the knowledge generated by his and others’ research in the formulation of agricultural development strategies, and the design of innovative and effective policies and interventions combatting rural poverty and the spread of HIV-AIDS.

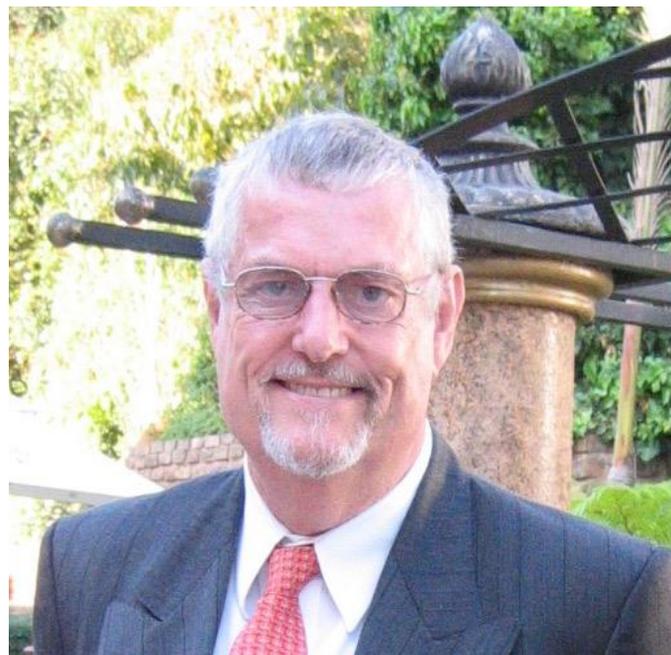
Throughout his career, Hans has shown that research excellence and high quality development practice can and should go together and should inform each other. That is the only way that the economics profession can change the lives of the poor for the better. It was the strength of Hans’ research that made him a highly effective development practitioner. He was also fierce fighter against discrimination of all sorts in the World Bank and other UN agencies. He was a persistent advocate at the World Bank for adopting policies that eliminate discrimination against employees suffering from AIDS.

After his retirement, Hans continued his advisory role to several key international organizations engaged in funding

and implementing rural development, thereby having an impact on their strategies and activities. He held academic appointments at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and at China Agricultural University. In 2002, he founded and endowed an NGO in Zimbabwe, the Community and Enterprise Development Against Stigma (CEDAS), that supported about 100 mostly HIV-positive children and their families by providing education, supplemental health care, and counseling.

Beyond everything else, Hans was an exceptional mentor, who helped dozens of young economists build their careers and continued to be a supporting and inspiring figure to them long after they became accomplished professionals in their own right. The two authors of this obituary are proud and grateful to have been among the early beneficiaries of his mentorship. The two of us organized a Festschrift in Hans’ honor in 2015 that was attended by a large number of his family members, friends and colleagues. We were fortunate that Hans was able to see in print the Festschrift book titled “Agriculture and Rural Development in a Globalizing World”, published by Routledge Press in 2017.

Hans Binswanger will be remembered by the thousands of development scholars and practitioners for the enormous contributions he made to the profession, but for those of us who were fortunate to have known him personally, he will be remembered more for his fierce pursuit of the truth, his uncompromising belief in what was right, his bottomless generosity of spirit, and his unfailing kindness to everyone around him. His daughter Ingrid aptly noted, “My father had a kind and generous spirit, an amazing mind and passion for helping people, and was a deeply loving person who often made us laugh. I will miss him deeply, as I know will his family, colleagues, and friends in numerous countries throughout the world.”



Written by Prabhu Pingali (Cornell University) and Gershon Feder (IFPRI)

DECAMERON DECLARATION

On Thursday the 18th of May, presidents of key agricultural economics associations that are active in Africa met to discuss several issues of mutual interest. Pictured below, the four presidents (from left to right): Nick Vink (President-Elect of the International Association of Agricultural Economists), Bongiswa Matoti (Current President of the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa), Ed Mabaya (Current President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists), and Johan van Rooyen (Current President of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association) met at Decameron restaurant in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Among the key agreements from this meeting was a plan to collaborate on upcoming conferences, and a commitment to increase participation of women in the respective associations.



ELECTIONS: IAAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Between June 1st and June 30th, 2018, all IAAE members will be able to vote electronically for the members of the new IAAE Board of Directors, who will take office for three years at the close of the upcoming 2018 ICAE in Vancouver. Elections will be held for the positions of:

- President Elect;
- Secretary-Treasurer; and
- Three Members-at-Large.

The Nominations Committee under the chairmanship of Past-President Jo Swinnen will prepare lists of nominees for these positions that include at least two candidates for each Member-at-Large position and the President-Elect position, and one candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer position. Members will be informed about these nominees and the voting procedures by June 1, 2018. Suggestions for consideration by the nominations committee can be submitted to Jo Swinnen (jo.swinnen@econ.kuleuven.be). Suggestions must

be accompanied by a two-page, single-spaced document that explains the case for the nomination.

Article 6.4.2 of the IAAE Bylaws stipulates that nominations are also possible by petition “of no less than twenty (20) Active and Honorary Life Members”. Members who wish to submit such a nomination by petition should do so by no later than **midnight GMT on May 28th, 2018** to the Secretary-Treasurer, Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel (iaae@gwdg.de).

Only IAAE members who are paid in full for the 2017-19 conference period as of June 1st, 2017 (and Honorary Life Members) will be eligible to vote, so renew your membership soon and participate in these important elections!

NOMINATIONS: HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Honorary Life Membership is open to those individuals who have contributed significantly to the profession and the IAAE over time. The Nominations Committee is also responsible for nominating candidates for Honorary Life Membership to the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations can be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Jo Swinnen (jo.swinnen@econ.kuleuven.be). Suggestions must be limited to not more than 1200 words and may be accompanied by a brief biographical statement of short vita. Nominations must be submitted by **midnight GMT on December 31, 2017**.

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 2018**. Information for the September 2017 issue must reach the IAAE Secretary-Treasurer’s office by February 28, 2017 (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.