

IAAE-EAAE Seminar



University of Kent

Kent Business School Centre

for European

Agri-Environmental Studies (CEAS)

Small farms: Decline or Persistence?

Date and location

Date: 26th-27th June 2009

Location: Kent Business School, Canterbury campus of the University of Kent, CANTERBURY, Kent, UK

The seminar is organised by the Centre for European Agri-Environmental Studies (CEAS) at Kent Business School. The CEAS members - economists and policy analysts - work primarily on the economic development of the European Union and specifically on the role, impact and performance of its agriculture and the role of government policy in relation to the problems both of environmental damage in the agricultural landscape, and the positive externalities associated with the production of food, fibre and energy.

Canterbury in Kent, South East England, is easy to reach by plane (to all London airports and then train), by Eurostar train, ferries from France and Belgium or by motorway (M20).

Theme

This seminar will focus on the ongoing debate about the roles and functions of small farms and their future within the context of rapid structural changes in agri-food chains and the "retail revolution". The seminar will incorporate discussions about the changing role of small farms in the EU, transition and developing countries. It will also explore the environmental consequences (externalities) stemming from the decline of small scale farming, particularly in EU New Member States. The small farm debate has taken on special significance for the EU as it seeks to accommodate the large number of small farms in New Member States within the Union's agricultural and environmental programmes and policies. The seminar will seek to learn from comparative studies of the

roles of small farms in other parts of the world, and will explore appropriate policy options.

Background

Small farms dominate agriculture in terms of numbers of producers of agricultural commodities, but a large and rising share of output and factor use is accounted for by larger farms.

The expansion of the EU to the east has brought into the CAP millions of household plots which hardly fit the traditional family-farm model. Land market imperfections and non-monetary preferences of farm operators often hinder structural change and provide grounds for the persistence of the small scale farming. Rather than exiting agriculture, many small farms are diversifying their livelihoods into nonfarm activities and are becoming less reliant on farming as their major source of income.

However, there are large variations in small farm strategies which vary by region and country according to the availability of nonfarm income earning opportunities, market opportunities for high value production, including organic or quality assured product production. Different livelihood strategies also have different implications for land use and environmental management.

Within Europe, with the change in the focus of the CAP towards lower production incentives and more environmental types of support the policy response of small farms is an important issue, particularly for some Member States.

For reasons of efficiency and competitiveness, the EU supports the drive to commercialisation of subsistence and semi-subsistence farms in the NMS. However, the agri-environmental consequences of this structural change are poorly studied. In addition, there is some documented evidence about the importance of subsistence and semi-subsistence farming for livelihoods and food security in NMS. However, there have been little detailed assessments of the value of subsistence food production to household well-being and assessments of poverty usually discount such production.

Understanding what factors promote or hinder the shift to commercialisation will be critical for assessments of likely future structural change. While the EU faces some unique challenges in managing the structural transformation of its own small farms, still there is much that can be usefully learnt from similar small farm transitions in other parts of the world. Small farms still dominate agriculture in most developing and transition countries, including several fast growing Asian countries. Understanding the roles small farms play in these different contexts, how they are adjusting to similar changes in marketing chains, and how effective different policy approaches have been, can help inform appropriate policies.

Objectives

The seminar will bring together economists, modellers and policy analysts to present evidence on and discuss the functions of small farms in different country contexts and at different levels of national economic development, and their future within the context of a move away from productionist policies towards agri-environment, integrated

development of rural areas, food quality and safety. A better understanding of the functions and the factors responsible for the persistence of small farms, whose operators frequently combine agriculture with other activities, should enable behaviour and responses to policy signals to be better explained.

Call for papers and posters

The seminar invites papers and posters on the following related topics:

1. Small farms: definitions, trends and livelihood patterns
2. Changes in factor/product markets and implications for the future of small scale farming
3. Farm scale and economic efficiency: revisiting an old debate
4. Subsistence and semi subsistence farming: modelling and analysis
5. Productive, income generating and social role of small farms
6. Effects of aging population, migration and human capital on future farm size structure
7. Environmental and other non-monetary costs and benefits of small farms
8. Small farms policies: instruments and impacts.

Participants who would like to present papers should submit abstracts not exceeding 700 words, and for posters 350 words, by **30th January 2009** to:

Ms. Cornelia Suta, Kent Business School, Imperial College, Wye Campus Wye, Ashford
Kent TN25 5AH, UK

Tel +44 (0) 2075 942 965

Fax: +44 (0) 2075 942 838

e-mail: cms32@kent.ac.uk

The abstract should include name(s) of the author(s), full address, including the e-mail of the corresponding author, the broad topic area into which the paper/poster falls (see Main Topics above), the theory and methodology employed and the analytical results where appropriate.

The notification of acceptance will be provided by **15th March 2009**.

Full papers should be submitted by **15th May 2009**. They will be made available before the start of the seminar on CD-ROM.

Language

The seminar language is English

Plenary speakers

Prof. Peter Hazell, Imperial College, London, 'Small farms in developing countries: policy lessons learnt'

Prof. Jo Swinnen, Catholic University of Leuven ‘Small farms within the food chain: integration or marginalisation?’

Dr. Sophia Davidova, KBS: ‘The future of subsistence farming in the EU NMS’

Prof. Gertrud Buchenrieder, IAMO, ‘The role of small farms for non-farm rural economy’

There will be a special session on Small farms in the US presented by USDA representatives and academics.

International Programme Committee

Chair: Dr. Sophia Davidova, Kent Business School, UK
Prof. Gertrud Buchenrieder, IAMO, Germany
Prof. Csaba Csaki, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
Prof. Andrew Dorward, SOAS, UK
Prof. Rob Fraser, Kent Business School, UK
Prof. Peter Hazell, Imperial College, UK
Dr. Laure Latruffe, INRA, Rennes, France
Prof. William Meyers, University of Missouri-Columbia, USA
Dr. Johannes Sauer, Kent Business School, UK
Prof. Johan Swinnen, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

Local organising committee: (Kent Business School, Canterbury)

Chair: Prof. Rob Fraser
Dr. Sophia Davidova
Dr. Dan Petrovici
Dr. Johannes Sauer
Dr. Carmen Stoian

Secretariat:

Ms. Lena Fredriksson lef8@kent.ac.uk
Ms. Maria Sheppard M.A.Sheppard@kent.ac.uk
Ms. Cornelia Suta cms32@kent.ac.uk

Registration

The deadline for registration is **15th May 2009**.

Participants are asked to provide an expression of intent (pre-registration) before **30th March 2009**.

The number of participants will be limited to 70.

Persons with papers and posters that have been accepted will have priority. Other participants will be admitted based on the date of their registration.

Pre-registration and registration forms will be posted on the websites of the EAAE, IAAE and the seminar website. Further information, pre-registration and registration forms should be addressed to:

Ms Maria Sheppard, Kent Business School, Imperial College, Wye Campus Wye,
 Ashford Kent TN25 5AH, UK
 Tel +44 (0) 2075 942 676
 Fax: +44 (0) 2075 942 838
 e-mail: M.A.Sheppard@kent.ac.uk

All the information will also be made available on the Seminar website
www.kent.ac.uk/kbs/111Seminar

Registration fees

	EAAE- IAAE members	Non-members who would like to join EAAE	Non-members who would like to join IAAE
Fees paid before 15 th May 2009	EURO 230	EURO 275	Registration fees plus USD 75 membership fees
Fees paid after 15 th May 2009	EURO 280	EURO 325	Registration fees plus USD 75 membership fees

Non-members of EAAE or IAAE should become members of at least one of the organising associations depending on their choice.

All commission and bank charges are at the expense of seminar participants.

The seminar fees include registration, welcome reception on the arrival day, lunches during both seminar day, dinner on the first seminar day, refreshments and a CD ROM with the seminar proceedings. Accommodation is not included.

There will be a limited number of grants covering registration fees, IAAE membership fees, and travel and accommodation expenses for young researchers from developing countries with accepted contributed papers or posters.

Sponsorship is being provided by IAAE and Kent Business School, The University of Kent.

Accommodation

Accommodation is offered within the University of Kent, Canterbury campus. Details will be made available on the EAAE, IAAE and Seminar websites.

Important dates

Submission deadline for paper and poster abstracts: **30th January 2009**

Author's notification: **15th March 2009**

Submission deadline for full papers: **15th May 2009**

Deadline for pre-registration **30th March 2009**

Deadline for early registration: **15th May 2009**

Contact persons for EAAE and IAAE

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