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# DECISION-MAKING AND AGRICULTURE

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PAPERS AND REPORTS

SIXTEENTH  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

*Held at Nairobi, Kenya*

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## CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Editorial Notes	xii

### OPENING SESSION

Presidential Address: Decision-Making and Agriculture. S. R. Sen	1
Inauguration of Elmhirst Lecture. S. R. Sen	13
The First Leonard Elmhirst Memorial Lecture: On Economics, Agriculture, and the Political Economy. T. W. Schultz	15

### DECISION-MAKING AND THE ECONOMIST'S CONTRIBUTION

Contributions of Economists to a Rational Decision-Making Process in the field of Agricultural Policy. G. L. Johnson	25
Agricultural Policy and the Contribution of Agricultural Economics Research and Analysis. C. W. Capstick	47

#### *Discussion*

Opening G. Bublot	53	G. L. Johnson, in reply	59
W. Zoehlnhoefer	55	C. W. Capstick, in reply	61
Report	58		

### MODELS AND AGRICULTURAL DECISION-MAKING

The Role of Models in the Decision Process in Agriculture. M. Petit	62
Coordination in Models Representing Different Decision-Making Levels in Agriculture. D. H. Kim	77

The Role of Models in the Formulation of Agricultural Policy.	88
L. Folkesson	

*Discussion*

Opening Q.B.O. Anthonio	99	M. Petit,	in reply	102
P. Reider	101	D. H. Kim,	in reply	103
Report	101	L. Folkesson,	in reply	104

## SPECIAL GROUPS

I. Farm-Level Decision Models for Developed Agriculture. R. A. Richardson, J. B. Hardaker & J. R. Anderson	105
--	-----

*Discussion*

Opening J. F. Riemsdijk	115	Rapporteur's Report	
A. H. Nielsen	116	J. Brossier	117

II. The Dynamics of Decision-Making and Policy Formulation for Agricultural improvement in Low-Income Countries. Q. B. O. Anthonio	119
--	-----

Farm Decision-Making with Respect to Social and Psychological Elements and the Human Factor in Agricultural Management. P. Mbithi	131
---	-----

*Discussion*

Rapporteur's Report	
J. H. Cleave	139

III. On Regional and Interregional Models of Planning for Agriculture. J. Sebestyén	142
---	-----

*Discussion*

Opening E. A. Attwood	154	Rapporteur's Report	
C. Baillet	155	T. Matzugi	157

IV. Models for Decision-Making in Agricultural Marketing. H. Walker	159
---	-----

*Discussion*

Opening A. Weber	188	Rapporteur's Report	
		M. Hawkins	190

## DECISION-MAKING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Relationship Between Agriculture and the Economy: Issues for National Level Policy. K. Ohkawa	192
---	-----

*Discussion*

Opening D. Bergmann	201	Report	205
J. S. Marsh	202	K. Ohkawa,	in reply 206

## SPECIAL GROUPS

- I. The Relationship Between Agricultural Policy, the Economy and Economic Policy on the National Level in Different Economic Systems and at Varying Stages of Economic Development: Concepts, Frictions and Solutions: Western Industrialized Countries with Market Economic Systems. G. Schmitt 208
- Discussion*
- |                        |     |                     |     |
|------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Opening R.W.M. Johnson | 241 | Rapporteur's Report |     |
| J. J. Scully           | 241 | H. van Miltenburg   | 243 |
- II. Socialist Countries: Relationship Between Agricultural Policies and General Economic Policy.
- (a) Relationship Between Agricultural Policies and General Economic Policy. A. Woś and Z. Grochowski 245
- (b) Rural Nutrition and Living Conditions in Relation to GDR Agricultural and Economic Policies. H. Schlicht 257
- (c) Problems of Agri-Alimentary Complexes in Territories With Extreme Production Conditions. V. R. Boyev 263
- (d) Decision-Making in the Self-Management System in Yugoslav Agriculture at the Macro- and Micro-Level. D. Tomic 267
- Discussion*
- |                  |     |                     |     |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Opening W. Herer | 272 | Rapporteur's Report |     |
|                  |     | P. E. Temu          | 273 |
- III. Agricultural Policy in India Since Independence. M. L. Dantwala 276
- Discussion*
- |                      |     |  |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|
| Opening J. W. Mellor | 294 |  |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC  
INTEGRATION

- Agricultural Development and Regional Economic Integration. G. Barbero 296
- Discussion*
- |                        |     |                      |     |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Opening H. F. Breimyer | 314 | Report               | 320 |
| A. Nussbaumer          | 315 | G. Barbero, in reply | 321 |

## SPECIAL GROUPS

- I. The Decision-Making Process in the European Community with Reference to Agricultural Policy. M. Tracy 323

	<i>Discussion</i>			
	Opening P. Gajo	338	Rapporteur's Report	
	D. D. Hussey	339	H. Weindlmaier	341
II.	(a) Economic Integration within the framework of CMEA In Relation to Agriculture. J. Kleer			344
	(b) Integration of CMEA-Countries in the Field of Agriculture. V. Nazarenko			356
	<i>Discussion</i>			
	Opening W. Anderson	361	Rapporteur's Report	
	A. Kiss	363	S. Krasovec	365
III.	The Decision-Making Process in Regional Integrations of Developing Countries with Reference to Agriculture.			
	(a) Regional Cooperation in Agriculture among Developing Countries. C. J. van der Vaeren			366
	(b) A Comparative Study of Economic Integration with Special Reference to Agricultural Policy in the East African Community. A. Weber and T. T. Hartmann			379
	(c) Prospects and Problems of a Common Agricultural Policy among the West African States. J. A. Akinwumi and A. J. Adegeye			396
	<i>Discussion</i>			
	Opening J. B. Yankey	416	Rapporteur's Report	
			A. J. Adegeye	417

#### DECISION-MAKING AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Integrated Rural Development Projects: Decision-Making on the Regional Level.

(a)	Developed Countries/EC-Integration: Concepts and Experience. P. C. van den Noort			419
	<i>Discussion</i>			
	Opening J. Heavey	433	Report	435
	C. Vacquez-Hombrados	433	P. C. van den Noort, in reply	436
(b)	Regional Social Planning in Agriculture. J. Kunc			439

*Discussion*

Opening A. Maris 442

- (c) The Role of Agriculture in Integrated Rural Development Projects: The Experience of the World Bank. M. Yudelman 444

*Discussion*

Opening A. A. Abudullah 458 Report 463

A. Brun 461

## SPECIAL GROUPS

- I. Follow-up discussion on (c).

- II. Agrarian Reforms: A Framework and Instrument of Regional Development. A. Figueroa 465

*Discussion*

Opening B. Dasgupta 485 Rapporteur's Report

S. Sawada 485 W. Nguyo 487

- III. Considerations Related to Optimum Pricing and Marketing Strategies in Rural Development. Uma Lele 488

*Discussion*

Opening A. J. Badillo 514

- IV. New Techniques, Agricultural Extensions Services and Credit Facilities as Instruments of Rural Development with Special Reference to Latin America. R. Benalcazar R. 517

*Discussion*

Opening M. Ngeze 527 Rapporteur's Report

F. Philipp 528 H. J. Plunkett 530

## DECISION-MAKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- (a) International Trade Models and Product Studies as a Base for World Decision-Making in Agriculture. J. J. Richter 532

- (b) The Importance of World Models for Agricultural Policy. W. Scheper 547

*Discussion*

## Opening

(a) C. Thomsen 566 Report (a) and (b)  
A. S. Watson 567 combined 574

(b) G. L. Johnson 569 J. Richter, in reply 576  
M. Daad 572 W. Scheper, in reply 576



Towards a World Food Policy: Progress and Problems in Decision-Making. H. E. Walters 578

*Discussion*

Report 584 H. E. Walters, in reply 584

SYNOPTIC VIEW

Research Priorities. Synoptic View: D. K. Britton 587

A report on a number of sessions of the 16th Conference on the general subject of

*Food and Population – Priorities in Decision-Making*  
will be published separately

## PREFACE

The papers and discussion reports presented in this book record the proceedings of the XVIth International Conference of Agricultural Economists held at Nairobi, Kenya from July 26 to August 4, 1976 at the generous invitation of the Government of Kenya.

The Conference arrangements were the responsibility of the Kenyan Organising Committee under the chairmanship of the Honourable Maina Wanjigi, M.P.

Two special seminars were also held: one on Rural Development, organized by the Economic Development Institute (EDI), Washington, D.C., of the World Bank (IBRD), and the other on Post-Graduate Training in Agricultural Economics, organized by the German Foundation of International Development, Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung, DSE, Berlin. The Executive Committee of the IAAE has worked closely with both of these institutions, and the Association is very grateful for this coordination of these activities with the efforts of the IAAE to build up an efficient infrastructure of communications in Africa between the agricultural economists as individuals as well as to strengthen the international scientific cooperation in the field of agricultural economics.

The programme of the various sessions was built up by Professor Theodor Dams of the University of Freiburg, Federal Republic of Germany, and the book, therefore, owes its broad pattern to him and its more detailed content to the large number of individual participants who have contributed the papers and participated in the discussions.

The papers and the records of discussion were edited for publication by Mr. K. E. Hunt, Director of the Agricultural Economics Institute, University of Oxford, England.

The IAAE is deeply grateful to all of them for their assistance.

SAMAR R. SEN  
President, International Association  
of Agricultural Economists

## EDITORIAL NOTES

The papers and summaries of discussions which make up this volume reflect the pattern of the central part of the conference concerned with the subject "*Decision-making and agriculture*". This part of the conference programme was arranged as eight plenary sessions, in which the conference met as a whole, and special group sessions in which it divided into sections – usually four.

At the first plenary meeting Samar R. Sen Delivered the Presidential address on the conference theme and Theodore W. Schultz presented the First Leonard Knight Elmhirst Memorial Lecture entitled "On Economics, Agriculture, and the Political Economy". This lecture was established by the International Association of Agricultural Economists in memory of Leonard Elmhirst, of Dartington Hall, Devon, England, the Association's Founder President.

The six plenary sessions which followed were each devoted to a broad subject area within the field embraced by the theme. Some were introduced by a single paper, others by several.

The discussion at each of these plenary meetings was opened by invited speakers – usually two. The subject was then thrown open to general discussion and the session closed with the main speakers adding their concluding remarks.

The activities of these plenary sessions are recorded in this volume in the form of the Presidential Address, the Elmhirst Memorial Lecture, the other papers presented at plenary sessions, the contributions of those invited to open the discussions at these sessions, a summary of the general discussion and the concluding remarks of the readers of the main papers. The discussion summaries of the general discussion at plenary sessions were prepared by one of the editors (K. E. H.) from written statements provided by speakers and the taped record of the Proceedings. The names of all identified speakers are listed but, where appropriate, contributions from several speakers are combined and specific points are not attributed in the summaries to specific speakers. Rising printing costs have enforced the Association to abandon its practice of publishing a verbatim record of these discussions.

The Special Groups meetings which followed the plenary sessions to which they were linked were held simultaneously, the conference participants

dividing among them according to inclination. The record given here follows a broadly similar pattern to that of the plenary sessions – main paper or papers, invited statements opening the discussion and a discussion summary (prepared by a rapporteur assigned by the Programme Organiser). Some slight variations in the pattern occurred reflecting convenience in arranging discussion. For example, one of the special groups was arranged to continue the discussion on M. Yudelman's paper in the plenary session devoted to Integrated Rural Development. The extended discussion was not summarised.

Among other activities of the Conference was a Symposium on agriculture in Kenya, for which the publication specially commissioned for the Conference (*Agricultural Development in Kenya: an economic assessment* by Judith Heyer, J. K. Maitha and W. M. Senga. (Nairobi, O.U.P., 1976) formed the introduction. A day was devoted to food and population problems on the basis of which the Association expects to publish a group of papers on the general subject of "Achieving a balance between population and food: priorities in decision-making". The 24 Contributed Papers read at the Conference have been published as the first of the new series of IAAE Occasional Papers.