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The Rural Challenge

Contributed Papers Read at the
17th International Conference
of Agricultural Economists

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

Gower

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Published by Gower Publishing Company Limited, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3HR, England.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

International Conference of Agricultural Economists
(17th: 1979: Banff, Canada)

The rural challenge. (-Occasional paper/
International Association of Agricultural
Economists; No.2)

1. Agriculture - Economic aspects - Congresses

I. Title II. Bellamy, Margot A.

III. Greenshields, Bruce L.

338.1 HD1405

ISBN 0 566 00472 0

Printed in Great Britain by
Biddles Ltd, Guildford, Surrey

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Foreword

This book is the second in the IAAE Occasional Papers series. It contains 40 full papers and 40 abstracts of contributed papers presented at the 17th International Conference of Agricultural Economists, held in Banff, Alberta, Canada, September 3-12, 1979. In addition, it contains the openers' remarks and rapporteurs' reports of the discussions that ensued, and four papers presented at a special session on Canadian agriculture. The titles of sessions in which the papers were presented are in the contents along with the names of those persons who chaired the sessions.

The conference theme was "Rural Change: The Challenge for Agricultural Economists." The program was structured to correspond to the levels at which agricultural economists work--micro, subnational, national, supranational, multinational, and disciplinary. The inclusion in this book of the reactions of the conference participants provides an unusual opportunity for the reader to experience the flavour of the discussions and to judge the quality and relevance of the papers. The reader will discover that, in addition to the contributed papers, the openers' remarks and the comments from other participants are substantial contributions to the professional dialogue.

The 80 contributed papers were selected for presentation at the conference from over 300 proposals. The Contributed Papers Selection Committee members were Kenneth R. Farrell (Chairman), John H. Cleave, Yair Mundlak, Allen B. Paul, G. Edward Schuh, Shamsheer Singh, Juan Zapata, and Bruce L. Greenshields (Executive Secretary). I served on the committee in an ex officio capacity.

The support of the Economics and Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Institute of Agricultural Economics of Oxford University in the preparation of this book is gratefully acknowledged. In particular, the Association and I are deeply indebted to Margot Bellamy and Bruce Greenshields for many hours of careful work in editing the manuscript (received in varying condition) for publication, and much credit is due to Patricia L. Beavers who typed the camera copy, often from handwritten notes. The views expressed in this book are not necessarily those of the IAAE or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Glenn L. Johnson
Vice President--Program
1977-79