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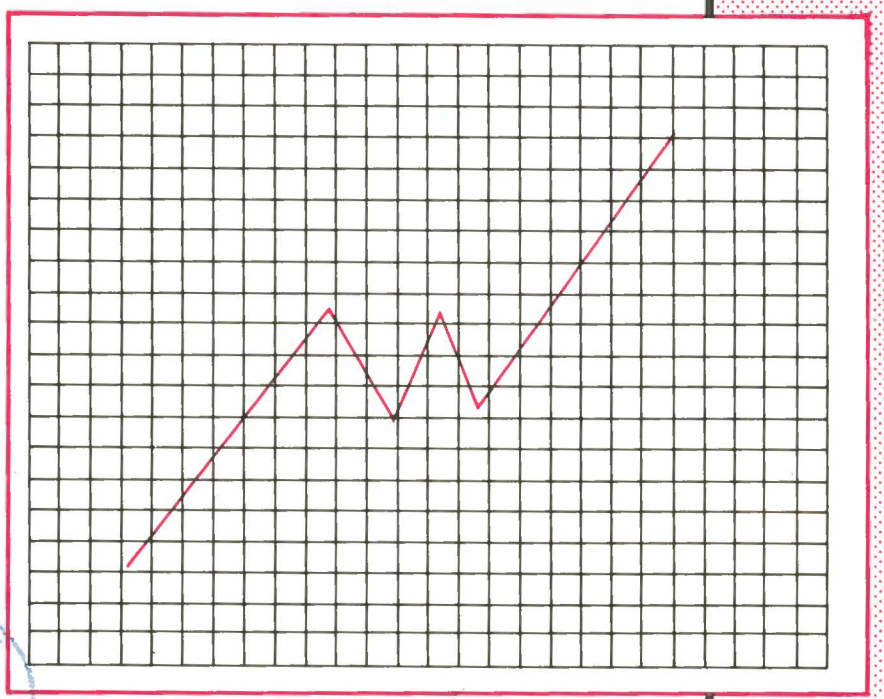

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DO THE OPINIONS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS DIFFER FROM THOSE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ECONOMISTS?

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ABSTRACT

A survey of the opinions of agricultural economists in Southern Africa shows that there are few major ideological differences between them and their American counterparts. It seems that the profession as a whole tends to support the free market, although with some qualifications.

INTRODUCTION

A fairly long questionnaire was sent to all ordinary members of the Agricultural Economics Association of Southern Africa (AEASA) during February 1987 (cf. Table A1). This survey of the opinions of Southern African agricultural economists was prompted by two separate events. First, Pope and Hallam (1986) tested the opinions of American agricultural economists, and found "A confusion of agricultural economists". Their research, in turn, arose from two opinion surveys, one of general economists in the USA (Kearl *et al*, 1979) and one of general economists in Europe (Frey *et al*, 1984).

Both studies of general economists found a high degree of consensus, especially on basic propositions of positive economics, in contrast with the confusion of opinion among American agricultural economists. This prompted interest concerning the range of opinions of Southern African agricultural economists.

Second, both the previous international visitors to the AEASA Annual Conferences in 1986 and 1987, Professors Luther Tweeten and Glenn L. Johnson, respectively, remarked on the diversity of professional opinion among those who attended these conferences. Both also felt this to be a source of strength for the AEASA.

The questionnaire sent to AEASA members was to a large degree a duplication of the one used by Pope and Hallam (1986), and this has subsequently drawn a certain amount of criticism from the ranks of AEASA members. Our purpose was, however, not only to test the opinions of the local agricultural economists but also to compare them with those of their colleagues in the USA. The quality of responses received also show that many of our members at least understood the questions! We are indebted to those who did go to the trouble of working through all the questions, and would like to thank them for their efforts.

The purpose of this article is to describe consensual opinions of Southern African agricultural economists. On this basis the differences between American and local opinions will also be highlighted. The areas of differences of opinion among the Southern African fraternity, as well as possible causes of these differences, will be published in a subsequent article.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY

Questionnaires were sent to all ordinary members of the AEASA, as reflected in the current membership lists. Of the 361 sent, a total of 162 replies were received. Of these, 21 were sent back unopened because of incorrect addresses while 22 were incomplete. The final sample consisted of 119 questionnaires, or a sample size of 33 per cent. Although it is difficult to test the representativeness of the sample, readily available data does show at least some correspondence with reality. Table 1 shows that the sample distribution by university corresponds with the distribution among all AEASA members for the period 1972 to 1982.

TABLE 1 - Distribution by university

University	Sample	AEASA membership 1972-82*
Pretoria	26,1	22,5
Free State	16,8	18,9
Natal	16,0	20,7
Stellenbosch	33,6	37,9
Other	3,4	-
Foreign	4,2	-

Note: *Source: AEASA 21 (1983: 21)

It is apparent, however, that the sample is biased towards members with postgraduate qualifications. A total of 15 per cent of the respondents, for example, had doctoral qualifications while between 1972 and 1982, only 4 per cent of AEASA members had such a qualification (AEASA, 1983:21).

Such caveats notwithstanding, Table A1 shows the distribution of responses for the second part of the questionnaire, which tested the opinions of the agricultural economists in Southern Africa on 71 different propositions.

In order to find the areas of consensus among

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local agricultural economists, these 71 propositions were divided into 7 functionally related groups. These groups and the corresponding question numbers are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2 - Classification of questions

Category	Questions
Marketing schemes	2, 3, 5, 13, 18, 27, 33, 35, 42, 49, 51, 59, 62, 67
Agricultural development	14, 15, 30, 53, 63, 70
Research methods	7, 8, 11, 17, 24, 26, 31, 38, 40, 47, 48, 52, 55, 58, 60, 64
Information and risk	4, 16, 25, 29, 36, 41, 45
Market characteristics	1, 9, 21, 23, 34, 37, 65, 68
Normative policy	19, 39, 43, 44, 56, 57, 61, 66, 69, 71
Miscellaneous	6, 10, 12, 20, 22, 28, 32, 46, 50, 54

This classification will be used in discussing consensus among Southern African agricultural economists as well as differences between Southern African and American agricultural economists.

CONSENSUS AMONG SOUTHERN AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

In measuring the degree of consensus of opinion, the responses under "strongly agree" and "agree" and those under "strongly disagree" and "disagree" were aggregated.

The strength of feeling on any particular issue can be found in Table A1. The purpose in this section is to highlight areas where there seems to be a general consensus of opinion. Questions are referred to as Q1, Q2, etc.

Marketing schemes

It is evident from Q3 that most (64,7 per cent) are in favour of retaining the marketing boards. The reasons for this opinion range from their role in standardisation to the stability which they are thought to promote (see the responses to Q5, Q13, Q27, Q33 and Q35).

Proponents for the free market system need not fear, however, since this support is not unqualified. Marketing boards that facilitate price bargaining are popular (Q2), while a *laissez-faire* approach is preferred to the current maize (Q18), milk (Q62) and meat (Q67) policy. In general terms, however, respondents are ambivalent concerning the role of single channel fixed price schemes (Q42) and concerning the desirability of a *laissez-faire* macro policy (Q51). Further analysis of the demographic characteristics of respondents is required in order to explain these responses. There is, however, near unanimity regarding the price of control (Q59). More than 80 per cent know that prices are not close to competitive equilibrium levels.

Agricultural development

Responses to these questions show a large degree of unanimity as regards justification of expenditure on agricultural development (Q14), although there is little support for increasing that expenditure (Q70). The reason can be found in the past approaches to development. A majority (73,9 per cent) believe that large scale projects should get less emphasis than small farmer support (Q15). Most respondents are also in favour of free trade (Q30), and 77,3 per cent believe that farmers in the self-governing territories should be able to market through South African cooperatives and the marketing boards (Q53).

It also seems that many respondents (43,7 per cent) fear that money spent on development will displace markets for South African farmers (Q63). This seems to present a fruitful area for research, especially given the support for free trade.

Research methods

A singular feature of the responses to these questions is the relatively high proportion of "don't knows" (especially to questions Q8, Q11, Q17, Q26, Q31, Q52, Q55, Q58, Q60, Q64). Two other issues should also be mentioned. First, most respondents support the view that farm management is, and should be, central to the discipline (Q40, Q47). As a corollary, agricultural economics is seen more as a managerial than a social science (Q7, Q38). Second, although there is support for basic research by 68,1 per cent of respondents (Q24), there is ambivalence regarding the usefulness of standard reporting methods via publication in journals (Q8). The reason can partly be found in the lack of knowledge regarding research methods.

Information and risk

Respondents seem to have a healthy respect for market limitations, given the support for the provision of market information (Q25, Q29, Q41, Q45). There is some ambivalence regarding the efficacy of insurance and disaster programmes (Q4) and futures markets (Q16), while most respondents would like to see what the latter can do (Q41).

Market characteristics

In this respect it is clear that respondents believe that agricultural markets differ from those in other sectors of the economy (Q9, Q23, Q68) for a number of reasons. These include concentration in markets facing the farmer (Q1), weather risk (Q21) and 'sticky' resource adjustments (Q65).

Normative policy

There does not seem to be much support for the idea that these market characteristics can be used to argue for redistribution within agriculture (Q20, Q43) or to agriculture (Q19). There is, however, just as little support for the idea that there should be redistribution away from agriculture (Q39, Q56, Q61, Q69). Respondents seem to be dissatisfied with an equal distribution: what they do support is growth, since 86,6 per cent believe that society should encourage farm growth (Q57).

Question	2	3	5	13	18	27	33	35	42	49	51	59	62	67
Difference in response	42,9	12,7	19,4	43,8	-	-	53,1	14,5	36,4	67,1	22,4	83,8	12,9	20,1

Miscellaneous

There are two issues in this section which deserve attention. There is overwhelming support for the idea that part-time farmers contribute to social welfare (80,7 per cent: Q10) and that they should be eligible for State assistance, for example in the form of Land Bank loans (79,9 per cent: Q28). This could be construed as support for a reconsideration of official policy.

A further important issue is the support given to the idea that farm labourers should receive management as well as technical training (Q6). Again, a majority of respondents (89,9 per cent) support this view, which was given currency by Brand (1986:5), as a means of improving resource allocation and welfare in agriculture.

General

A general observation which can be made from this discussion is that there seems to be a trend to support the free market system in agriculture, although such support is qualified. The responses show, however, that there is no case in which more than half of the respondents either strongly agree or disagree with a proposition, while there are only 13 of the 71 questions in which more than 55 per cent either agree or disagree. It is clear that a further analysis of the demographic characteristics of respondents could throw more light on the diversity of opinions.

COMPARISON WITH AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

The data used in this section were calculated as the absolute value of the difference between agreement and disagreement on a proposition. In all cases the "strongly agree/agree" and "strongly disagree/disagree" were aggregated as in the previous section. Further, these calculations were made for both Southern African and American responses, and the difference between these is used to compare the opinions of the two groups of agricultural economists. Using Q51 as an example, the absolute value of the difference between agree (46,3 per cent) and disagree (48,9 per cent) views is 2,6 percent. The difference in the case of the USA is 25 per cent (Pope and Hallam), giving a margin of 22,4 per cent difference between American and Southern African opinions. This figure reflects the degree of consensus between American and Southern African agricultural economists on any given proposition.

The data were grouped according to the same categories used in section 3, and the responses for the USA were obtained from Pope and Hallam (1986: 575-577). Question numbers refer to the South African questionnaire. No questions regarding agricultural development were put to American agricultural economists.

Marketing schemes

The responses to these questions are of course not strictly comparable, since the marketing institutions of the USA differ from those in South Africa. The trend in the response of the American economists is, however, instructive.

Agricultural economists in the USA do not support the abandoning of marketing orders, with much the same qualifications as is evident from Southern African respondents, given the different policies current in the two countries. There is for example, more support in the USA for supply controls as compared to direct market intervention. However, a larger percentage of American agricultural economists support government intervention, (58,4 per cent as compared to 48,9 per cent: Q51). It seems therefore that the trend of opinion in the two countries converges toward agreement on the desirability of a mixed economy, albeit from different starting points. Most USA respondents (54,2 per cent) believe, for example, that agricultural prices are close to a competitive market equilibrium (Q59). The majority (75,1 per cent) also believe that marketing orders have succeeded in stabilising and/or raising prices to such an extent that producers are better off (Q49).

Research methods

Question	7	8	11	17	24	26	31	38
Difference in response	28,0	12,0	8,8	26,1	39,7	0,0	0,2	29,3

Question	40	47	48	52	55	58	60	64
Difference in response	23,5	50,5	33,5	9,8	7,7	0,1	17,6	38,9

Agricultural economists in the USA also registered a high proportion of "don't knows" with regard to these questions. In 6 of the above 16 questions this category represented more than a quarter of the response. Further, 64,5 per cent of them did not rate published work highly, compared to 53,8 per cent of their Southern African counterparts.

One major difference can be found in the view of this discipline as a managerial rather than a social science, and the corresponding view of the role of farm management. Here the US fraternity (or 60,8 per cent of them) see farm management issues and skills as central to agricultural economic analysis, while only 50,2 per cent think this should be so (Q40, Q47). Further, 42,5 per cent of them (a majority) see the discipline as primarily a social, rather than a managerial, science compared to 26,9 per cent in Southern Africa (Q38). The social science view, therefore, has greater currency in the USA.

Southern African and American agricultural

economists agree on the usefulness of models which incorporate risk (Q26) and of deriving and analysing data obtained from experimental methods (Q31), and the need for dynamic models (Q58).

Information and risk

Question	4	16	25	29	36	41	45
Difference in response	54,7	30,0	59,3	22,4	14,6	63,0	13,8

These questions were all put in exactly the same form to both sets of respondents. There is a difference of opinion regarding the usefulness of insurance and disaster programmes (Q4), with American economists strongly in favour, and of futures markets (Q41), with the Americans dissenting. As was seen in the section on information and risk Southern African agricultural economists are keen to know more about futures markets.

Both sets of respondents are in favour of government data collection and analysis (Q25, Q45), although the American respondents are overwhelmingly in favour (90,6 per cent as compared to 57,1 per cent: Q25). Both groups are also surprisingly ambivalent regarding the desirability of giving smaller farmers more extension support (Q36).

Market characteristics

Question	1	9	21	23	34	37	65	68
Difference in response	19,3	2,5	11,8	54,2	35,5	22,6	28,7	29,6

There is a large degree of consensus regarding the characteristics of agricultural markets. Opinions differ, however, regarding the existence of barriers to entry and exit in agricultural industries (Q23), where the majority (72,3 per cent) of the local agricultural economists believe they are high compared with only 43,7 per cent of their American counterparts. Further, 65,5 per cent of the Southern African group believe that market incentives do not lead to efficient resource conservation (Q34), while 48,1 per cent of the American group believe that they do. These opinions can probably also be traced to the differences in market structure between the two countries.

Normative policy

There would appear to be unanimity on most questions of what 'ought to be'. American agricultural economists feel more strongly that policy should not be judged only by its effect on consumer welfare (87,5 per cent as compared to 63 per cent: Q56), while their views on cooperatives also differ in degree. While 37,2 per cent of the Southern African group do not believe the cooperatives (as voluntary organisations) raise net farm incomes, the corresponding figure for the American group is only 17,1 per cent (Q66). This may reflect the fact that South African cooperatives are not necessarily voluntary organisations.

The American group also believe that farm labour displaced by public-sponsored mechanisation research should receive assistance, while the Southern African group holds the opposite view (Q69).

Miscellaneous

Question	10	12	20	22	28	32	46	50	54
Difference in response	0,0	10,1	31,4	11,7	0,0	5,7	0,0	9,6	5,6

There is again a large degree of consensus between the two groups on these issues. One area of difference is the belief of American agricultural economists that larger farms should receive lower subsidies than smaller farms (with 53,1 per cent in favour: Q20). Their Southern African counterparts hold the opposite view (53,8 per cent disagree with this proposition).

General

Pope and Hallam (1986: 574) show that on only 10 issues do more than 60 per cent of respondents agree or disagree with a proposition. If this threshold is lowered to 55 per cent, the number of issues on which there is broad consensus increases to 18 compared with only 11 for the Southern African group. It would therefore seem that there is even less consensus among Southern African agricultural economists. Again, a more detailed analysis of these opinions is necessary before firm conclusions can be drawn.

CONCLUSION

There seem to be few major ideological differences between agricultural economists in Southern Africa and in the USA. The differences that do exist can mostly be traced to the different market structures in the two countries. Further, it appears that both groups lend support to the free market, although with some qualifications. Firmer conclusions regarding the reasons for divergent opinions among local agricultural economists can only be drawn after more detailed analysis of the data.

Finally, we trust that the motivation given by Pope and Hallam for publishing such research will suffice for this study, and that their statement (p. 573): "... that professional opinion studies ... are often held in low esteem but widely read, enjoyed, and quoted ..." will hold true.

Question	19	39	43	44	56	57	61	66	69	71
Difference in response	16,4	14,6	3,5	14,2	47,8	16,6	15,3	30,1	34,6	27,0

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ANNEXURE 1

TABLE A1 - THE OPINIONS OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

QUESTIONS	PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENTS[1]						
	SA	A	Agree[2]	D	SD	Dis-agree[2]	DK
MARKETING SCHEMES							
2. Marketing boards which facilitate price bargaining improve social welfare	16,0	53,8	69,8	17,6	8,4	26,0	4,2
3. Social welfare would be improved if all marketing boards were abandoned	10,1	23,5	33,6	41,2	23,5	64,7	1,7
5. Marketing boards, which facilitate assembly, grading, and packaging, lead through standardisation to a net welfare gain to society through improved operational efficiency and consumer information	7,6	51,3	58,9	28,6	9,2	37,8	3,4
13. Floor and fixed prices have led to more stability in agricultural income as compared to *laissez-faire* policy	10,1	48,7	58,8	19,3	19,3	38,6	2,5
18. Current public policy regarding maize production is socially preferred to a *laissez-faire* policy	2,5	38,7	41,2	34,5	17,6	52,1	6,7
27. Quotas are effective in reducing aggregate production	5,0	28,6	33,6	31,9	31,9	63,8	2,5
33. Supply controls are socially preferred to price supports	4,2	19,3	23,5	37,8	31,1	68,9	7,1
35. Social welfare is improved through the provision and enforcement of anti-monopoly laws	18,5	63,9	82,4	11,8	2,5	14,3	3,4
42. Government programmes which intend to promote greater stability in price or output (such as single channel fixed price schemes) have generally also increased average aggregate farm income	1,7	45,4	47,1	30,3	16,8	47,1	5,9
49. Marketing boards have succeeded in stabilising and/or raising prices to such an extent that producers are better off	0,8	43,7	44,5	31,9	16,0	47,9	7,6
51. *Laissez-faire* is preferred to government intervention in agriculture	11,8	34,5	46,3	36,1	12,6	48,7	5,0
59. Agricultural prices are close to a competitive market equilibrium	0,8	16,0	16,8	57,1	23,5	80,6	2,5
62. A *laissez-faire* policy regarding milk production is socially preferred to the current policy	10,1	46,2	56,3	29,4	3,4	32,8	10,9
67. Current public policy regarding meat marketing is socially preferred to a *laissez-faire* policy	1,7	33,6		33,6	21,8	55,4	9,2
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT							
14. There is justification for money spent on agricultural development in the self-governing territories	21,8	52,1	73,9	12,6	10,9	23,5	2,5
15. Money spent on agricultural development in the self-governing territories should be for large scale project development rather than on small farmer support	5,0	10,1	15,1	34,5	47,1	81,6	3,4
30. Agricultural policy for the self-governing territories should stress food self-sufficiency rather than free trade	10,9	30,3	41,2	34,5	20,2	54,7	4,2

Note[1]: SA : Strongly agree; A : Agree; D : Disagree; SD : Strongly disagree; DK : Don't know

Note[2]: Agree = SA + A
Disagree = D + SD

	SA	A	Agree	D	SD	Dis-agree	DK
53. Farmers in the self-governing territories should be able to become members of the SA cooperatives and sell their produce through the SA marketing boards	20,2	57,1	77,3	10,1	10,1	20,2	2,5
63. Money spent on agricultural development in the self-governing territories displaces markets for SA farmers	4,2	39,5	43,7	42,0	8,4	50,4	5,9
70. Not enough money is spent on agricultural development in the self-governing territories	9,2	25,2	34,4	35,3	17,6	52,9	12,6
RESEARCH METHODS							
7. Agricultural economics should be primarily a social, rather than a managerial, science	3,4	18,5	21,9	33,6	41,2	74,8	3,4
8. The representation of the real world in agricultural economics research (as indicated by the journals) by emphasising technical elegance is not very useful for understanding agricultural economic behaviour	8,4	45,4	53,8	23,5	10,9	34,4	11,8
11. Time-series analysis is generally more accurate than econometric analysis when predicting economic variables	0,8	29,4	30,2	21,8	8,4	30,2	39,5
17. Economic predictions of mathematical programming models are generally superior to those of econometric methods	0,0	17,6	17,6	27,7	3,4	31,1	51,3
24. Research problems and results that do not have immediate or direct policy implications are of little value	8,4	20,2	28,6	51,3	16,8	68,1	3,4
26. Models of agricultural economic response based upon risk-averse behaviour are useful in positive economic analysis	10,1	58,0	68,1	5,9	2,5	8,4	23,5
31. Greater resources should be devoted to deriving and analysing data obtained by experimental methods	14,3	45,4	59,7	22,7	1,7	24,4	16,0
38. Agricultural economics is primarily a social, rather than a managerial, science	0,8	26,1	26,9	43,7	21,0	64,7	8,4
40. Farm management issues and skills are central to agricultural economic analysis	12,6	59,7	72,3	21,8	2,5	23,3	3,4
47. Farm management issues and skills should be central to agricultural economic analysis	16,0	59,7	75,7	18,5	1,7	20,2	4,2
48. Economic research supported by the experiment station is socially productive (i.e. social costs are less than social benefits) and should be publicly funded	7,6	65,5	33,1	15,1	4,2	19,3	7,6
52. Dynamic optimisation tools are primarily useful in normative, rather than positive, economic analysis	4,2	29,4	33,6	17,6	3,4	21,0	45,4
55. Agricultural decision makers process information in a simple way so that adaptive or static expectations, rather than rational expectations, best describe behaviour	2,5	26,1	28,6	31,9	10,1	42,0	29,4
58. Considering the trade-offs between generality and costs, most agricultural problems can be adequately studied using static, rather than more complicated, dynamic models	0,8	24,4	25,2	47,1	7,6	54,7	20,2
60. Greater resources should be devoted to primary as opposed to secondary data collection and analysis	10,1	41,2	51,3	22,7	2,5	25,2	23,5
64. The profession does not rank highly research which attempts to test or 'confirm' economic theories of behaviour or models	4,2	40,3	44,5	31,9	4,2	36,1	19,3

	SA	A	Agree	D	SD	Dis-agree	DK
INFORMATION AND RISK							
4. Disaster and crop insurance programmes which are funded (partially or completely) by the government, raise social welfare as compared to a *laissez-faire* policy	4,2	41,2	44,4	32,8	15,1	47,9	6,7
16. Given current information, the futures market is not a good indicator of expected supply and demand conditions	5,0	37,0	42,0	26,1	15,1	31,2	16,8
25. Government data collection and analysis leads to an increase in market efficiency	6,7	50,4	57,1	23,5	8,4	31,9	10,9
29. Because of market failure in the provision of information, agricultural economic extension efforts are socially productive (i.e. social costs are less than social benefits) and should be funded	22,7	49,6	72,3	18,5	7,6	28,1	1,7
36. Government-supported activities such as the extension service should be more fully directed toward smaller scale agriculture	10,9	42,0	52,9	33,6	10,9	44,5	2,5
41. More extension resources should be devoted to convincing farmers that use of the futures market will improve farmers' welfare	7,6	59,7	67,3	18,5	1,7	20,2	12,6
45. Government expenditures on information generation, such as market price information, should increase	16,8	53,8	70,6	18,5	4,2	22,7	6,7
MARKET CHARACTERISTICS							
1. Characterising farms as small businesses, the markets they face are more concentrated than those faced by other small businesses	21,0	41,2	62,2	27,7	5,0	32,7	5,0
9. Generally, externalities associated with agricultural production do not lead to distortions which are of sufficient magnitude to warrant government intervention	5,0	26,1	31,1	40,3	23,5	63,8	5,0
21. Price instability at the producer level is caused mainly by randomness of production rather than market power or random demand	10,9	52,9	63,8	18,5	12,6	31,1	5,0
23. Barriers to entry and exit in agricultural industries are sufficiently low that the markets can be characterised as what some economists have called contestable (approaching a competitive allocation of resources)	2,5	19,3	21,8	39,5	32,8	72,3	5,9
34. Market incentives do not lead to efficient conservation (use) of agricultural resources	16,8	48,7	65,5	29,4	4,2	33,6	0,8
37. Changes in the prices of agricultural outputs lead input price changes	7,6	27,7	35,3	36,1	25,2	61,3	3,4
65. Resource adjustments in agriculture are 'sticky' compared to other sectors of the economy due to asset fixity	16,0	63,0	79,0	14,3	1,7	16,0	5,0
68. Agricultural land values are determined primarily by agricultural use	0,0	21,0	21,0	42,9	32,8	75,9	3,4
NORMATIVE POLICY							
19. Governmental policies should not attempt to redistribute income and wealth from other sectors of the economy to factors of production in agriculture	20,2	45,4	65,6	25,2	5,9	31,1	3,4
39. Funding for demand expansion programmes such as food subsidies, should be implemented	5,9	33,6	39,5	45,4	8,4	53,8	6,7

	SA	A	Agree	D	SD	Dis-agree	DK
43. The government should pursue policies aimed at equalising the distribution of income and wealth within the agricultural sector	3,4	17,6	21,0	46,2	29,4	75,6	3,4
44. Free trade policies should be pursued by the government	19,3	59,7	79,0	14,3	3,4	17,7	3,4
56. All agricultural policies should be evaluated only in terms of their ultimate effect on aggregate consumer welfare	4,2	30,3	34,5	56,3	6,7	63,0	2,5
57. Society should not discourage farm growth	24,4	62,2	86,6	9,2	0,8	10,0	3,4
61. As opposed to income transfers or stability, the primary justification for government intervention is that society desires a 'cheap food' policy	5,9	29,4	35,3	45,4	12,6	58,0	6,7
66. Voluntary organisations, such as cooperatives, raise net farm incomes	3,4	48,7	52,1	28,6	8,4	37,0	10,9
69. If public-sponsored mechanisation research displaces labour, government adjustment assistance to those displaced should be provided	5,0	34,5	39,5	39,5	14,3	53,8	6,7
71. Commodity market promotion significantly raises demand to such an extent that net farm income from commodity sales increases	10,9	42,0	52,9	32,8	2,5	33,3	11,8
MISCELLANEOUS							
6. Management, as well as technical, training should be given to farm labourers	45,4	44,5	89,9	8,4	0,8	9,2	0,8
10. Part time farmers contribute to optimal resource use, and therefore also to society welfare	25,2	55,5	80,7	12,6	4,2	16,8	2,5
12. Social public policies regarding the financing of agricultural investment are necessary because wholly private financial markets are imperfect	7,6	40,3	47,9	35,3	14,3	49,6	2,5
20. Larger farms should receive lower subsidies than smaller farms	8,4	32,8	41,2	30,3	23,5	53,8	5,0
22. Marketing, more than production skills, increases net farm income	16,0	32,8	48,8	31,1	15,1	46,2	5,0
28. Part-time farmers should not be eligible for State assistance, e.g. Land Bank Loans	8,4	8,4	16,8	41,2	38,7	79,9	3,4
32. Flexible international exchange rates are superior to pegged or fixed rates	13,4	61,3	74,7	9,2	3,4	12,6	12,6
46. Credit rationing by commercial banks has reduced farm investment from the social optimum	2,5	16,8	19,3	46,2	21,8	68,0	12,6
50. The deterioration in the terms of trade is a significant factor in the impoverishment of the third world population	8,4	41,2	49,6	32,8	10,9	43,7	6,7
54. Recent export embargoes enacted for political reasons have had little or no economic effect on the domestic market	4,2	41,2	45,4	33,6	15,1	48,7	5,9