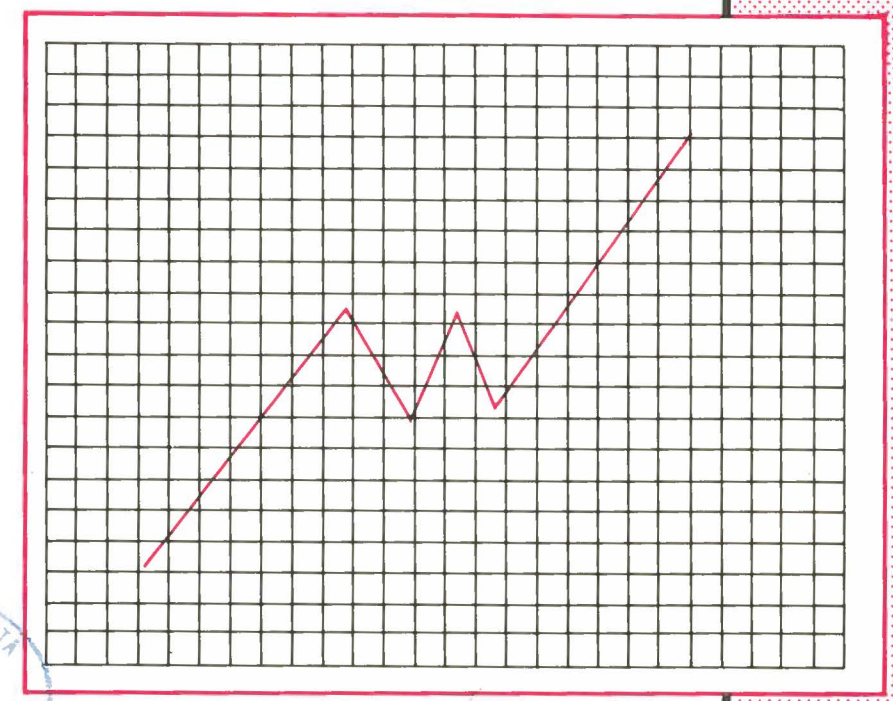

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WHY DO THE OPINIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS DIFFER?

by J. VAN ZYL and N. VINK*

ABSTRACT

Differences in the opinions of Southern African agricultural economists are analysed on the basis of a variety of characteristics of the respondents in a questionnaire survey. It appears that the relatively wide diversity of opinions can be attributed to a number of these characteristics, and that this is true with regard to several aspects of the discipline.

INTRODUCTION

In a previous article the differences in opinions between American and Southern African agricultural economists in respect of a wide range of subjects were analysed (Van Zyl & Vink, 1988). This was done on the basis of a questionnaire survey described in detail by Van Zyl & Vink (1988).

The same questionnaire survey has been used for this study to analyse differences in opinions between Southern African agricultural economists on the basis of a variety of characteristics of the various respondents. This is done by comparing the answers given by a group of respondents that meet a specific criterion with the answers of the rest of the respondents. The spheres in which differences in opinions occur, as well as possible reasons for this (on the basis of characteristics of the respondent), are revealed in this study.

CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Table 1 gives the classification of the respondents according to specific criteria. The managerial level of the respondent's current occupation, his highest academic qualification, the year in which it was obtained, the respective academic institutions at which undergraduate and postgraduate studies were done, his current employer and his field of interest were used here.

The classification of the respondents according to these criteria gives an indication of the representativeness of the response. As already indicated (Van Zyl & Vink, 1988), the division of the sample on a percentage basis according to academic institution where studies were completed corresponds to a large degree to that of the rest of the total population. It is clear, however, that the sample relies heavily on AEASA members with postgraduate qualifications. 15 per cent of the respondents had doctoral qualifications, whereas only 4 per cent of the AEASA members had such qualifications in 1982 (AEASA, 1983: 21). This larger response from members with higher qualifications is possibly the result of the long and relatively complicated nature of the questionnaire. It is also true that respondents with higher qualifications often hold positions in which they influence the opinions of others and therefore in fact act as opinion leaders. Therefore, although the sample tends more strongly towards respondents with higher qualifications, this does not necessarily reduce its representativeness.

Be that as it may, it is assumed that the answers are in all probability representative of at least the opinion-forming group among Southern African agricultural economists.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

For the purposes of the analysis the sample was divided into two groups each time; the one group consisting of those respondents who present a specific characteristic (classification) according to the criteria mentioned in Table 1, and the other group consisting of the rest of the respondents or, in other words, the respondents who do not have that specific characteristic or qualify for that classification.

A t test was conducted in respect of every question in order to determine if the response of the two groups differed significantly for that specific question. Satterthwaite's (1946) approach was used to calculate the degrees of freedom associated with the approximate t. An f value was calculated to test whether the two variances were equal (Steel & Torrie, 1980). The exceedance probability level for the absolute t value was calculated on this. Five per cent was taken as the cut off point for significant differences in the answers of the two groups, in other words in those cases where it is possible to say with at least 95 per cent reliability that the answers of the two groups differ in respect of a specific question.

Comparisons for significant differences were done only if more than 18 respondents ($< 15\%$ of the sample) complied with the specific criterion. This was done in order to retain the sense of comparison. Although no significant difference in response was reported between, for example, respondents who were interested in price analysis and those who were not, this does not necessarily mean that there are no such differences. The analysis was not included because less than 18 respondents (only 15 respondents: Table 1) were interested in price analysis.

*The University of Pretoria and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, respectively
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TABLE 1 - Classification of respondents according to specific criteria (n=119)

Criterion	Classification	Frequency	
		n	%
Current occupation	Non-managerial	36	30,3
	Middle level management	47	39,5
	Top management	24	20,2
	Staff position	12	10,0
Academic qualifications	Matric	0	0,0
	Diploma	1	0,8
	B. degree	6	5,0
	B.Sc. degree	26	21,8
	B.Sc. (Hons) degree	30	25,2
	M.Sc. degree	38	31,9
	D.Sc. or Ph.D. degree	18	15,1
Year in which last qualification was obtained	Before 1960	1	0,8
	1960 - 1969	13	10,9
	1970 - 1979	40	33,6
	After 1979	65	54,6
Academic institution where first qualification was obtained	UP	31	26,1
	UOFS	20	16,8
	UN	19	16,9
	US	40	33,6
	Other SA univ.	4	3,4
	Abroad	5	4,2
Academic institution where last postgraduate qualification was obtained	UP	36	30,3
	UOFS	17	14,3
	UN	6	5,0
	US	16	13,4
	Other SA univ.	7	5,9
	Abroad	7	5,9
Current employer	Industry	13	10,9
	Farming	22	18,5
	Academic	16	13,4
	Extension	15	12,6
	Semi-government	25	21,0
	Other government	28	23,5
Field of interest	Farm management	74	62,2
	Production economics	42	35,3
	Marketing	35	29,4
	Policy	24	20,2
	Agricultural industry	19	16,0
	Price analysis	15	12,6
	International trade	10	8,4
	Agricultural development	35	29,4
	Financing	33	27,7
	Resources	11	9,2
	Community development	9	7,6
	Labour	13	10,9
	Consumption analysis	9	7,6
	General economics	18	15,1
	Research methodology	10	8,4

The results will now be discussed.

RESULTS

Management level of current occupation

Differences in opinions on the basis of the management level of the respondent's current occupation are shown in Table 2.

According to Table 2 it appears that the answers of respondents who for example do not hold management posts differ from the rest with regard to questions number 28, 55 and 68 (Q28, Q55 & Q68) of the questionnaire as described by Van Zyl & Vink (1988). The exceedance probability level is also shown, as is the percentage response of the various groups.

From Table 2 it appears that the respondents in the top management group feel that more attention and money should be devoted to agricultural development in the self-governing territories than do the rest of the respondents (Q70). Similarly, the top management group is of the opinion that farm management is not as central a concern in the field of agricultural economics as is held by the rest of the respondents. The latter differ particularly strongly from the opinion of the middle-level management group (Q40 & Q47). Respondents in non-managerial positions feel more strongly about the exclusion of part-time farmers from State aid than do the rest of the respondents (Q28). Non-managers also feel that agricultural decision-makers pay less attention to new information when making decisions than the rest of the respondents think that they do (Q55).

TABLE 2 - Differences in opinions on the basis of management level of the respondent's current occupation

Criterion	Question no. P> T		Specified group					Rest of the respondents				
	Q	%	SA	A	D	SD	DK	SA	A	D	SD	DK
					%					%		
Non-managerial	28	1,45	5,6	2,8	33,3	52,8	5,5	9,6	12,1	44,6	31,3	2,4
	55	2,51	0,0	16,7	27,8	16,7	38,8	3,6	28,9	33,8	7,2	26,5
	68	1,94	0,0	11,1	38,9	44,4	5,6	0,0	25,3	44,6	27,7	2,4
Middle level management	25	1,26	4,3	42,6	25,5	6,4	21,2	8,3	54,2	23,6	9,7	4,2
	40	2,85	14,9	63,8	21,3	0,0	0,0	9,7	58,3	22,2	4,2	5,6
Top management	14	3,13	33,3	54,2	8,3	4,2	0,0	17,9	51,6	14,7	12,6	3,2
	40	1,15	0,0	58,3	20,8	8,3	12,6	14,7	61,1	22,1	1,1	1,0
	47	0,71	0,0	54,2	33,3	8,3	4,2	19,0	62,1	14,7	0,0	4,2
	57	1,61	8,3	62,5	16,7	4,2	8,2	28,4	62,1	7,4	0,0	2,1
	70	1,40	16,7	33,3	37,5	8,3	4,2	7,4	23,2	34,7	20,0	14,7

SA = in full agreement; A = agrees; D = disagrees; SD = dis agrees totally; DK = don't know

TABLE 3 - Differences in opinions on the basis of academic qualifications of respondents

Criterion	Question no. P> T		Specified group					Rest of the respondents				
	Q	%	SA	A	D	SD	DK	SA	A	D	SD	DK
					%					%		
B.Sc. degree	9	3,72	3,9	46,2	34,6	15,3	0,0	5,4	21,5	41,9	24,7	6,5
	51	0,22	23,1	50,0	19,2	7,7	0,0	8,6	30,1	40,9	14,0	6,4
	56	4,39	0,0	19,2	69,2	7,7	3,9	5,4	35,5	50,5	6,5	2,1
	58	4,48	0,0	23,1	30,8	3,9	42,2	1,1	24,7	51,6	8,6	14,0
	60	0,99	3,9	30,8	19,2	0,0	46,1	11,8	45,2	22,6	3,2	17,2
	67	1,98	0,0	19,2	34,6	26,9	19,3	2,2	37,6	33,3	20,4	6,5
Honours degree	22	2,32	23,3	43,3	20,0	13,4	0,0	13,5	30,3	33,7	15,7	6,8
	45	1,55	26,7	56,7	13,3	3,3	0,0	12,4	52,8	21,4	4,5	8,9
	51	2,68	3,3	26,7	46,7	13,3	10,0	14,6	37,1	32,6	12,4	3,3
	55	3,36	0,0	23,3	16,7	13,3	46,7	3,4	25,8	37,1	9,0	24,7
	67	1,94	0,0	46,7	40,0	13,3	0,0	2,3	29,2	31,5	24,7	12,3
	68	2,55	0,0	10,0	33,3	56,7	0,0	0,0	24,7	46,1	24,7	4,7
Master's degree	20	3,38	5,3	23,7	29,0	39,5	2,5	9,8	38,3	30,9	16,1	4,9
	63	3,69	2,6	29,0	47,4	10,5	10,5	4,9	44,4	39,6	7,4	3,7

SA = in full agreement; A = agrees; D = disagrees; SD = disagrees totally; DK = don't know

Academic qualifications

Table 3 gives a breakdown of those questions in which the opinions of respondents differed significantly according to educational qualifications. According to this table it appears that the opinions which differ on the basis of qualifications are those concerning market principles in particular.

Some of the most important differences in opinions on the basis of qualifications occur between respondents with B.Sc. degrees and those with Honours degrees. It can be deduced from Table 3 that respondents with an Honours degree are more in favour of a *laissez-faire* approach in respect of policy than are the rest of the respondents, while respondents with a B.Sc. degree are, in turn, more against a *laissez-faire* policy, particularly with regard to meat marketing (Q51 & Q67). Respondents with a Master's degree do not feel as strongly about lower subsidies for larger farms as the rest of the sample (Q20). They also feel that the effects of agricultural development in the self-governing territories are less disadvantageous to white agriculture than the rest of the respondents (Q63).

Year in which last qualification was obtained

Table 4 shows the questions on which opinions of respondents differ on the basis of the time at which they obtained their last academic qualification.

From Table 4 it appears that respondents who obtained their last qualification after 1979 are more positive about the ability of marketing councils to benefit producers through price stabilisation and/or increases than the rest of the sample (Q49). As against this, the respondents who obtained their last qualification in the period 1970 to 1979 are more sceptical about the success of marketing councils in improving the position of producers through the stabilisation and/or raising of prices (Q49).

The same applies in respect of the use of more funds for primary as against secondary data collection and analysis (Q60). Furthermore, it appears that the predominantly younger respondents (those who obtained their last qualification after 1979) are of the opinion that agriculture is less market-oriented than is felt by the rest of the respondents (Q23 & Q68). It also appears that this group are greater supporters of less interference than the rest of the respondents (Q32).

TABLE 4 - Differences in opinions on the basis of the time at which the respondents' last academic qualification was obtained

Criterion	Question no. P> T		Specified group					Rest of the respondents				
	Q	%	SA	A	D	SD	DK	SA	A	D	SD	DK
					%					%		
1970 to 1979	49	2,38	0,0	32,5	32,5	22,5	12,5	1,3	49,4	31,6	12,7	5,0
	60	1,87	5,0	37,5	17,5	2,5	37,5	12,7	44,3	24,1	2,5	16,4
After 1979	23	3,03	1,5	16,9	33,8	41,5	6,3	3,7	24,1	46,3	22,2	3,7
	32	1,50	10,8	56,9	9,2	4,6	18,5	16,7	66,7	9,3	1,9	5,4
	43	2,54	4,6	21,5	49,2	21,6	3,1	1,8	11,1	44,5	38,9	3,7
	49	4,05	1,5	50,8	30,8	10,8	6,1	0,0	35,2	33,3	22,2	9,3
	60	0,66	13,9	47,7	21,5	1,5	15,4	5,6	35,2	22,2	3,7	33,3
	68	2,25	0,0	13,9	41,5	41,5	3,1	0,0	29,6	44,4	22,2	3,8

SA = in full agreement; A = agrees; D = disagrees; SD = disagrees totally; DK = don't know

TABLE 5 - Differences in opinions on the basis of university at which undergraduate study was completed

Criterion	Question no. P> T		Specified group					Rest of the respondents				
	Q	%	SA	A	D	SD	DK	SA	A	D	SD	DK
					%					%		
UP	7	0,75	0,0	3,2	38,7	54,8	3,3	5,7	23,9	31,8	35,2	3,4
	8	4,30	9,7	35,5	16,1	12,9	25,8	8,0	47,7	26,1	11,4	6,8
	23	2,61	0,0	12,9	32,2	48,4	6,4	3,4	22,7	42,1	27,3	4,5
	27	0,66	0,0	12,9	35,5	51,6	0,0	6,8	33,0	31,8	25,0	3,4
	33	2,42	0,0	16,1	25,8	48,4	9,7	5,7	21,6	40,9	25,0	6,8
	38	4,23	0,0	16,1	41,1	29,0	13,0	1,1	29,6	44,3	18,9	6,8
	68	3,07	0,0	9,7	41,9	41,9	6,5	0,0	25,0	43,2	29,6	2,2
	69	5,25	3,2	29,0	32,3	19,4	16,1	5,7	36,4	42,0	12,5	3,4
	71	2,39	6,7	25,8	45,2	3,2	19,3	12,5	47,7	28,4	2,3	9,1
UOFS	25	0,22	20,0	60,0	20,0	0,0	0,0	4,0	47,5	25,3	10,1	13,1
	29	0,61	50,0	35,0	15,0	0,0	0,0	17,2	52,5	19,2	9,1	2,0
	36	2,54	0,0	35,0	40,0	20,0	5,0	13,2	43,4	32,3	9,1	2,0
	39	2,92	5,0	65,0	25,0	0,0	5,0	6,1	27,0	49,5	10,1	7,0
	42	3,54	5,0	35,0	30,0	10,0	0,0	1,0	42,4	31,3	18,2	7,1
	43	0,33	10,0	40,0	35,0	15,0	0,0	2,0	12,1	49,5	32,3	4,1
	44	2,79	5,0	55,0	25,0	5,0	10,0	22,2	60,6	12,1	3,0	2,1
	51	0,20	0,0	15,0	55,0	30,0	0,0	14,1	38,4	32,3	9,1	6,1
	53	4,92	5,0	60,0	10,0	20,0	5,0	23,2	57,6	9,1	8,1	2,0
	67	0,83	0,0	60,0	30,0	10,0	0,0	2,0	28,3	34,3	24,2	11,2
	70	2,14	0,0	15,0	40,0	25,0	20,0	11,1	27,3	34,3	16,2	11,1
US	7	0,27	10,0	27,5	32,5	30,0	0,0	1,3	13,9	34,2	45,6	5,1
	16	4,11	5,0	55,0	15,0	15,0	10,0	5,0	27,8	31,7	16,5	19,0
	22	0,22	27,5	37,5	27,5	5,0	2,5	10,1	31,7	31,7	20,2	6,3
	38	3,27	2,5	30,0	47,5	20,0	0,0	0,0	24,1	41,8	21,5	12,6
UN	3	0,44	5,3	63,1	31,6	0,0	0,0	11,0	16,0	43,0	28,0	2,0
	11	3,66	0,0	15,8	21,1	0,0	63,1	2,0	32,0	22,0	10,0	34,0
	12	4,12	0,0	21,1	63,2	5,3	10,4	9,0	43,0	30,0	16,0	2,0
	13	3,47	5,3	21,1	47,4	21,1	5,1	11,0	54,0	14,0	19,0	2,0
	16	2,36	0,0	15,8	42,1	10,5	31,6	6,0	41,0	23,0	17,0	13,0
	29	3,64	10,5	31,6	52,6	0,0	5,3	25,0	53,0	12,0	9,0	1,0
	50	4,58	21,1	52,6	15,8	5,3	5,2	6,0	39,0	36,0	12,0	7,0
	51	0,21	26,3	52,6	15,8	5,3	0,0	9,0	31,0	40,0	14,0	6,0
	53	0,68	42,1	52,6	5,3	0,0	0,0	16,0	59,0	10,0	12,0	3,0
	62	1,77	15,8	68,4	10,5	0,0	5,3	9,0	42,0	33,0	4,0	12,0
	63	3,12	10,5	47,4	42,1	0,0	0,0	3,0	38,0	42,0	10,0	7,0
	68	0,08	0,0	47,4	42,1	10,5	0,0	0,0	16,0	43,0	37,0	4,0
	70	3,10	10,5	42,1	36,8	10,6	0,0	9,0	22,0	35,0	19,0	15,0

SA = in full agreemeent; A = agrees; D = disagrees; SD = disagrees totally; DK = don't know

University at which undergraduate study was completed

Table 5 shows the opinions of the respondents on the basis of the university where they completed their undergraduate study. The large number of questions on which opinions differed significantly implies that the university at which the respondent studied as an undergraduate is one of the most important if not the most important cause or reason for the divergent views concerning marketing councils and market properties, in particular, among South African agricultural economists. As a result of the significant difference in opinions, opinions are discussed only in those cases where the same question occurs in more than one group.

It seems that specific fields do not play a role in where the differences in opinions arise: Marketing schemes, development, research, market properties and normative policy are all fields in which differences in opinions occur.

Table 5 shows that respondents who completed their undergraduate study at the University of Pretoria disagree more strongly with the view that agricultural economics should be a social rather than a managerial science than the rest of the respondents (Q7). As against this, most of those who studied as undergraduates at the University of Stellenbosch advance the opposite view (Q7). The same difference is found between the two groups when it comes to their opinion regarding what is actually the case (Q38).

Respondents who studied as undergraduates at the University of Pretoria and the University of Natal in turn, differed in opinion regarding the statement that agricultural land values are primarily determined by agricultural use. The former disagree more strongly with this statement than the rest of the respondents, while respondents who studied as undergraduates at the University of Natal are more inclined to agree (Q68).

There is also a substantial difference in opinion in respect of money spent on development in the self-governing territories. Respondents who studied as undergraduates at the University of Natal were predominantly of the opinion that too little money is spent on development. As against this respondents who studied as undergraduates at the University of the Orange Free State were of the opposite opinion (Q70).

An analysis of opinions according to the university where postgraduate study was done shows that differences on this basis are considerably smaller and less significant.

Current employer

Table 6 gives a breakdown of the questions on which opinions differ significantly on the basis of employers. It is interesting to note that all the questions where differences in opinions occur, with the exception of Q52 and Q60, have to do with market properties and marketing councils.

It appears from Table 6 that respondents employed in the farming sector are of the opinion that marketing councils are less effective than is felt by the rest of the respondents (Q5 & Q49). Respondents employed by the State are of the opinion that marketing councils make a larger contribution to social prosperity than is thought by the rest of the respondents (Q3). Employees at semi-government institutions are of the opinion that the markets farming undertakings are involved in are not as concentrated as is felt by the rest of the respondents (Q1), and that consequently they approach a competitive allocation of resources more nearly than is felt by the rest of the respondents (Q23).

Field of interest

Table 7 shows the differences in opinions on the basis of field of interest. Striking here is that the questions that gave rise to different answers in general, have little to do with the field of interest. Exceptions, however, were policy (Q15, Q26, Q57 & Q59) and agricultural development (Q15, Q30, Q36 & Q70). These questions are therefore discussed in more detail. Another interesting aspect is that differences in opinions with regard to market properties and marketing councils are not actually attributable to differences in fields of interest.

Respondents with policy and agricultural development as fields of interest are of the opinion that the support of the small farmer instead of large-scale project development, would entail greater benefits than is thought by the rest of the respondents. This view is supported by respondents who are interested in farming management (Q15). Respondents who are interested in policy also feel that risk analyses are of greater benefit (Q26) and that overlarge farms are more disadvantageous (Q57) than is felt by the rest of the sample. They also feel more strongly about the fact that agricultural prices do not approach a competitive market balance (Q59).

Respondents with agricultural development as a field of interest feel more strongly about free trade being emphasised as against food self-sufficiency for the self-governing territories (Q30), as well as about

TABLE 6 - Differences in opinions on the basis of current employer

Criterion	Question no. P> T		Specified group					Rest of the respondents				
	Q	%	SA	A	D %	SD	DK	SA	A	D %	SD	DK
Farming	5	1,91	0,0	36,4	40,9	18,2	4,5	9,3	54,6	25,8	7,2	3,1
	27	0,62	9,1	45,5	31,8	13,6	0,0	4,1	23,7	33,0	36,1	3,1
	43	0,09	0,0	9,1	22,7	59,1	9,1	4,1	18,6	52,6	22,7	2,0
	49	3,46	0,0	27,3	27,3	36,4	9,0	1,0	47,4	33,0	11,3	7,3
	52	1,43	0,0	18,2	9,1	4,6	68,1	5,2	32,0	19,6	3,0	40,2
	60	3,75	4,6	27,3	27,3	0,0	40,8	11,3	45,4	20,6	3,1	19,6
Semi-government	1	2,63	12,0	28,0	40,0	12,0	8,0	23,4	44,7	24,5	3,1	4,3
	23	3,46	4,0	32,0	40,0	24,0	0,0	2,1	17,0	39,4	35,1	6,4
Government	3	2,82	3,6	10,7	50,0	35,7	0,0	12,1	27,5	38,5	19,8	2,1

SA = in full agreement; A = agrees; D = disagrees; SD = disagrees totally; DK = don't know

TABLE 7 - Differences in opinions on the basis of field of interest

Criterion	Question no. P> T Q	%	Specified group SA	A	D %	SD	DK	Rest of the respondents SA	A	D %	SD	DK
Farming management	15	4,99	2,2	2,2	42,2	46,7	6,7	6,8	14,9	31,1	46,0	1,2
	23	3,59	6,5	20,0	44,4	28,9	0,0	0,0	20,3	36,5	35,1	8,1
	35	4,46	6,7	73,3	11,1	2,2	6,7	25,7	58,1	12,2	2,7	1,3
	57	3,73	22,2	55,6	11,1	2,2	8,9	25,7	66,2	8,1	0,0	0,0
Production economics	6	1,53	33,3	45,2	16,7	2,4	2,4	50,7	44,2	3,9	1,2	0,0
	23	1,28	0,0	14,3	35,7	40,5	9,5	3,9	23,4	41,6	28,6	2,5
	26	0,30	7,1	45,2	4,8	4,8	38,1	11,7	64,9	6,5	1,3	15,6
	36	3,42	15,6	44,2	28,6	9,1	2,5	2,4	38,1	42,9	14,3	2,3
	41	2,88	2,4	52,4	23,8	2,4	19,0	10,4	63,6	15,6	1,3	9,1
	71	2,48	7,1	35,7	33,3	2,4	21,4	13,0	45,5	32,5	2,6	6,4
Marketing	11	5,46	2,9	37,1	22,9	14,3	22,8	1,2	26,2	21,4	6,0	45,2
	69	1,28	2,9	20,0	48,6	11,4	17,1	6,0	40,5	35,7	15,5	2,3
Policy	15	1,89	4,2	0,0	25,0	62,5	8,3	5,3	12,6	37,9	42,1	2,1
	26	1,11	20,8	62,5	8,3	4,2	4,2	7,4	56,8	5,3	2,1	28,4
	40	0,78	4,2	45,8	29,2	8,3	12,5	13,7	64,2	20,0	1,1	1,0
	47	0,01	4,2	29,2	41,7	8,3	16,7	17,9	68,4	12,6	0,0	1,1
	57	1,26	12,5	54,2	16,7	4,2	12,4	27,4	64,2	7,4	0,0	1,0
	59	0,37	0,0	8,3	37,5	45,8	8,4	1,1	17,9	62,1	17,9	1,0
Agricultural development	12	0,37	14,2	42,9	40,0	2,9	0,0	4,8	38,1	33,3	19,1	4,7
	15	2,93	2,9	8,6	20,0	62,7	5,7	6,0	10,7	41,7	39,3	2,3
	30	3,58	8,6	17,1	37,1	31,4	5,8	10,7	36,9	33,3	15,5	3,6
	36	1,06	17,1	54,3	20,0	8,6	0,0	8,3	36,9	39,3	11,9	3,6
	60	4,04	20,0	45,7	14,3	5,7	14,3	6,0	40,5	25,0	1,2	27,3
	70	0,92	17,1	31,4	34,3	11,4	5,8	6,0	22,6	35,7	20,2	15,5
Financing	6	3,13	57,6	39,4	3,0	0,0	0,0	39,5	46,5	10,5	2,3	1,2
	40	2,02	18,1	66,7	15,2	0,0	0,0	9,3	58,1	24,4	3,5	4,7
	45	2,26	33,3	48,4	12,2	0,0	6,1	9,3	55,8	22,1	5,8	7,0

SA = in full agreement; A = agrees; D = disagrees; SD = disagrees totally; DK = don't know

the allocation of more money to agricultural development in these territories (Q70), than do the rest of the respondents.

CONCLUSION

A difference in opinions between Southern African agricultural economists occurs across the entire spectrum of the discipline. The major differences in opinions are in the field of market properties and principles.

From the results of the investigation it seems that these differences in opinions are the result of a variety of factors, namely management level of the respondent's current occupation, his highest academic qualification, the year in which he obtained it, the respective academic institutions at which he completed his undergraduate and postgraduate study, his current employer and his field of interest.

It seems that a large proportion of the differences in opinions between Southern African agricultural economists hark back to the university at which the respondent completed his undergraduate study.

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