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1991 FR TOMLINSON GEDENKLESING/MEMORIAL LECTURE

DIE LANDBOU-EKONOMIESE NALATENSKAP VAN FR TOMLINSON

THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC LEGACY OF FR TOMLINSON

Dr SS Brand

*Uitvoerende Hoof en Voorsitter van die Raad: Ontwikkelingsbank van Suider-Afrika
Executive Chief and Chairman of the Board: Development Bank of Southern Africa*

Dit is vir my 'n groot eer, maar ook 'n hartseer geleentheid om vanaand hierdie lesing te lewer. Die versoeking is om oor die persoon F R Tomlinson te praat - oor die onuitwisbare indruk wat hy op my gelaat het, en ek glo op almal wat met hom te doen gekry het, deur sy bruisende geesdrif en sy reguit manier, sy insig en ervaring en sy groot medelewing met studente en medewerkers. Dit is egter vanaand eerder die geleentheid om te besin oor en opnuut erkenning te gee aan sy bydrae tot die beoefening van die landbou-ekonomie in Suid-Afrika. Dit in sigself is 'n groot opgaaf, want dit gaan oor iemand wat oor 'n tydperk van meer as veertig jaar, benewens twee doktorsale proefskrite wat hy self geskryf het, ook sowat sewentig wetenskaplike en populêr wetenskaplike publikasies gelewer het. Hy was ook voorsitter van twee belangrike kommissies van ondersoek en voorsitter of lid van etlike departementele ondersoekkomitees. Hy het as promotor opgetree vir drie-en-twintig doktorsale proefskrifte en as studieleier vir agtien magister-verhandelings. Hy het talryke erkennings ontvang vir sy werk, waaronder die Havengaprys vir ekonomie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns en erelidmaatskap van die Landbou-ekonomiese Vereniging van Suider-Afrika.

Vir die breër publiek, maar deesdae miskien selfs ook in landbou-ekonomiese kringe, is FR Tomlinson se naam veral bekend in verband met sy voorsitterskap van die Kommissie van Ondersoek na die Sosio-ekonomiese Ontwikkeling van die Bantoegebiede in die Unie van Suid-Afrika, of in die omgangstaal, die Tomlinsonkommissie. Hoewel dit ongetwyfeld 'n belangrike stuk werk is wat sy kenmerkende stempel dra, versluier dit sy breër bydraes tot die ontwikkeling van die landbou-ekonomie, wat selfs sonder die Tomlinsonkommissie nog indrukwekkend sou gewees het. Dit gaan ook nie net oor die omvang nie, maar veral oor die inhoud en gehalte van die bydraes wat hy oor so 'n lang tydperk gelewer het. Ek het derhalwe die behoefte gehad om juis by hierdie geleentheid wat die eerste aanbieding van 'n FR Tomlinson-gedenklesing na sy afsterwe is, enkele temas en benaderings uit te lig wat sy vak-kundige werk gekenmerk het. Ook wil ek daaruit sekere riglyne aflei vir die agenda van die landbou-ekonomiese professie in die komende jare.

Na prof. Tomlinson se nagraadse studies te Cornell in die VSA waar hy sterk onder die invloed gekom het van bekende landbou-ekonomie soos GF Warren en PA Pearson en 'n proefskrif voltooi het wat oor landboupryse handel het, het van sy vroeë werke in Suid-Afrika voortgebou op sy belangstelling in die breë prys- en produksieneigings en bedryfsstruktuur in die landbou. Dit het byvoorbeeld neerslag gevind in publikasies soos *Uitbreiding van Koringproduksie in Suid-Afrika, 1910-1934* (1935) en *Prysbewegings van Landbou-produkte* (1937). Hierdie voorliefde vir die ontleding van makro-ekonomiese neigings het hom dwarsdeur sy loopbaan bygebly, soos heelwat later geblyk het uit sy artikelreeks oor "Landbou-produksie en Pryse in die Kaapkolonie" in die *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe* in 1961. Dit is 'n belangstelling wat uitgekling het na sy beskouings en ontledings oor die

It is a great honour for me to deliver this lecture tonight, but at the same time it is a sad occasion. I am tempted to talk about F R Tomlinson the person - about the indelible impression he made on me, and, I am sure, on everybody else who dealt with him. He had this impact because of his bubbling enthusiasm and his direct manner, his insight and experience and the great empathy he had with students and colleagues. However, on this occasion it is probably more appropriate to reflect on and give recognition anew to his contribution to the practice of agricultural economics in South Africa. This is in itself a formidable task because it concerns the activities of a remarkable man over a period of more than forty years. During this time he submitted two doctoral theses, published about seventy scientific papers and popular scientific articles, was chairman of two major commissions of enquiry and chairman or member of several departmental committees of enquiry. He was supervisor to twenty-three doctoral candidates and to eighteen candidates for master's degrees. He received much recognition for his work, such as the Havenga prize for economics from the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, and honorary membership of the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa.

Today the name F R Tomlinson is well known to the general public, and perhaps even in agricultural economic circles, because of his chairmanship of the Commission of Inquiry into the Socio-Economic Development of Bantu Areas in the Union of South Africa, or, to put it more colloquially, he is remembered as the Tomlinson Commission. Although this is indisputably an important piece of work which carried his characteristic stamp, it obscured his wider contribution to the general development of agricultural economics, which would have been impressive even without his involvement in the Tomlinson Commission. Not only are the large number and the wide range of his contributions impressive, but the excellence of the content and the standard he maintained over this long period are remarkable. For this reason I felt that it would be appropriate today, on this, the first presentation of the FR Tomlinson Memorial Lecture since his demise, to single out a few of the many themes and attitudes which characterised his scholarship. From these, I would also like to draw certain guidelines for the direction of the agricultural economics profession in the years that lie ahead.

During his postgraduate studies at Cornell in the USA, where he submitted a dissertation on agricultural prices, Professor Tomlinson was strongly influenced by well-known agricultural economists such as GF Warren and PA Pearson. Back in South Africa, he developed some of his earlier works along the line of his interest in general price and production trends and trade structure in agriculture. This led to publications such as *Uitbreiding van Koringproduksie in Suid-Afrika, 1910-1934* (1935) and *Prysbewegings van Landbou-produkte* (1937). This predilection for analysing macroeconomic trends stayed with him throughout his career, as can be seen in his series of articles on 'Agricultural production and prices in the Cape Colony', published in the magazine for Human Sciences in 1961.

afset van landbouprodukte (vergelyk sy publikasie oor die bemarking van huide en velle in die Unie van Suid-Afrika in 1939) en van die rol van die landbou in die breër ekonomiese - 'n onderwerp waarvoor ek die eer gehad het om enkele artikels saam met hom te publiseer. Hierdie belangstelling het ook ingesluit die rol van die landbou in 'n streeksverband.

Reeds vroeg na sy terugkeer uit die VSA het prof. Tomlinson ook aandag begin skenk aan die mikro-ekonomiese ondersoekwerk oor die individuele boerdery-onderneming. Hieroor het hy verslag gedoen in publikasies soos *Die Ekonomiese Struktuur van Somervrugteboerdery in die Westelike Kaapprovinsie in 1933/1934* (met S P van Wyk, 1935), opgevolg deur 'n hele aantal ondersoekte oor ander produksietakke in die landbou, soos grondboontjie- en mielieproduksie op die Springbokvlakte (1938), boerdery in die Limburgstreek (1939), besproeiingsboerdery in die Wes-Transvaal (1939), bydraes tot die Agro-ekonomiese Onderzoekprojek (1947), varsmelkboerdery in Natal en in die Witwatersrandgebied (1951) en tabakboerdery in Wes-Transvaal (1951).

Hoewel van hierdie studies hulle oorsprong gehad het in die amptelike behoefte aan produksiekoste-inligting as 'n grondslag vir prysbesluite, het hy telkens die geleentheid benut om heelwat meer uit hierdie soort ondersoekte te put. Dit het in die eerste plek ingesluit 'n deeglike metodologiese besinning oor metodes van kosprysberekening, in aansluiting op die aanvanklike oogmerk van baie van hierdie studies. Benewens die deeglike beskrywende resultate ten opsigte van die betrokke boerderystelsels wat al sy publikasies in hierdie kategorie kenmerk, het hy voorts in sy ontleding van die oorsake van variasies in boerderyresultate, die identifisering en ontleding van suksesfaktore op so 'n wyse dat daaruit rigtingwysers vir die individuele boer kon afgelei word waarvolgens hy sy resultate kon verbeter, en ook in nog ander opsigte metodologiese grondslae daarin gelê vir vele later studies deur Suid-Afrikaanse landbou-ekonome. In hierdie ontledings het hy nie in die strik getrap om individuele suksesfaktore in isolasie te beskou nie, maar deurgaans die klem geplaas op "die boerdery as 'n ekonomiese en organisatoriese geheel" waarin die samestelling van die produksievertakkings, die kombinasie van insette en die rol van verskillende produksiepraktyke gesamentlik tot die boerderyresultaat bydra. Dit is ook interessant dat hy selfs in hierdie vroeë stadium die persoonlike eienskappe van boere as een van die oorsaaklike faktore in die verklaring van boerderyresultate in sy ontledings ingesluit het. Hierdie benadering was 'n baie vroeë voorloper van sy latere belangstelling in gemeenskapsontwikkeling en benaderings tot voorligting aan boere.

'n Belangrike kenmerk van die werk wat prof Tomlinson reeds in die jare dertig van die landbou in Suid-Afrika, op hierdie twee breë terreine, naamlik die makro- en die mikro-ekonomiese ontleding, gelewer het, is dat hy dit juis nie in afsonderlike kompartemente hanteer het nie. In sy publikasies het hy hom deurgaans bewus getoon van die invloed wat makro- neigings het op die besluite wat op die individuele boerderyvlak geneem word, en anders om, die mate waarin reaksies op die boerderyvlak die bedoelde uitwerking van makro-ekonomiese beleid kan ondersteun of ondermyn.

Sy ontledings van neigings in die koringproduksie begin byvoorbeeld deur die rol van oppervlakte-uitbreidings teenoor opbrengsverhogings in die totale produksieneigings te onderskei. Vervolgens identifiseer hy op 'n bedryfstakgrondslag dieselfde soort oorsaaklike faktore as wat hy in sy mikro-ekonomiese ondersoekte as suksesvolle faktore uitsonder, soos produksiestelsels en -praktyke en tegnologiese ontwikkelings. Besonder interessant, en vandag nog baie ter sake, is sy ontleding van die uitwerking wat neigings in die relatiewe prys van koring tot die van ander landbou-produkte op die neigings in die produksie van koring gehad het. Sy bevindings hieroor kan selfs vandag nog tot groot hoogte van toepassing gemaak word op die besondere bedryf.

It is an interest which expanded to encompass his views on and analyses of the marketing of agricultural products (compare his publication on the marketing of skins and hides in the Union of South Africa in 1939), and of the role of agriculture in the broader economy - a subject on which I had the honour of publishing a few articles with him. This interest also included the role of agriculture in a regional context.

Shortly after his return from the USA, Professor Tomlinson began to focus his attention on microeconomic investigations into individual farming ventures. He reported on this in publications such as *Die Ekonomiese Struktuur van Somervrugteboerdery in die Westelike Kaapprovinsie in 1933-1934* (with S P van Wyk, 1935), which was followed by a series of investigations into other production areas of agriculture, such as peanut and mealie production on the Springbok Flats (1938), farming in the Limbur region (1939), irrigation farming in the western Transvaal (1939), contributions to the Agro-Economic Inquiry Project (1947), fresh milk farming in Natal and in the Witwatersrand region (1951) and tobacco farming in the Western Transvaal (1951).

Although some of these studies originated from the official need for information on production costs as a basis for determining prices, time and again he used the opportunity to derive additional benefit from this kind of investigation. Firstly, this included a thorough methodological reflection on methods of costing, in addition to the original objectives of these studies. All his publications in this category were characterised by thorough descriptive results related to the relevant farming systems. In addition, his analyses of the causes of variations in farming results provided extremely useful guidelines for individual farmers because of the excellent identification and analysis of success factors in each case study. Through these studies he also laid methodological foundations for many later studies by other South African agricultural economists. In his analyses he avoided falling into the trap of considering success factors in isolation by placing emphasis throughout on 'farming as an economic and organisational whole' within which the composition of the various production branches, the combination of inputs and the role of different production practices contribute to the overall farming results. It is interesting to note that even at this early state he included the personal characteristics of farmers as one of the causative factors in explaining farming results in his analyses. This approach was an early precursor of his later interest in community development and his approach to extension to farmers.

In these two broad fields, namely macro- and microeconomic analysis, an important characteristic of Professor Tomlinson's work on agriculture in South Africa during the thirties, was that he did not view these fields as separate entities. His publications show his continuous awareness of the influence which macro trends have on decision making on the individual farming level, and vice versa, the extent to which reactions on the farming level, and, vice versa, the extent to which reactions on the farming level can support or undermine the intended effect of macroeconomic policy.

His analysis of trends in wheat production, for example, starts by differentiating the role of surface expansion from that of increase in yield in total production trends. He then identifies, on an industry basis, the same kind of causative factors that he identified as successful factors in his micro-economic investigations, such as production systems and practices and technological developments. Especially interesting and still applicable today, is his analysis of the effect that trends in the relative price of wheat compared to other agricultural produce had on trends in the production of wheat. His findings in this regard can today still be applied to a large extent in this particular industry. From this, and from the implications that one cannot act continuously against market trends, he leads his argument back to the decision choices of the individual farmer and the desirability of diversification of farming systems.

Hieruit, en uit die implikasie dat daar nie blywend opgetree kan word teen markneigings in nie, lei hy sy argument weer terug na die besluitkeuse van die individuele boer en die wenslikheid van diversifikasie van boerderystelsels. Dit is ook vermeldingswaardig dat hy reeds in hierdie vroeë stadium aandag gegee het aan die substitusie tussen produksiemiddelle, soos in sy publikasie oor meganiese teenoor dieretrekkrag. Hy toon byvoorbeeld aan wat die uitwerking is van die relatiewe prys van voer teenoor die van brandstof en hoewel hy dit nie deurtrek na 'n volledige sensitiwiteitsontleding ten opsigte van alle koste-items nie - iets wat binne die beperkings op dataverwerking van daardie tyd begryp kan word -, opper hy in hierdie publikasie kwessies wat later veel meer aktueel geword het, ook langs die weg illustreer hy sy vermoë om vroegtydig belangrike kwessies te identifiseer.

'n Tema wat deur sy hele loopbaan op verskillende maniere prof Tomlinson se belangstelling opgeëis het, was die kwessie van plaasgroottes en die invloed daarvan op boerderystelsels, -praktyke en -resultate. Hy waarsku reeds in sy publikasie oor koringproduksie teen die kleinerwording van plase in die koringproduksiegebiede, omdat dit 'n beperking sou plaas op die moontlikeheid om die gebalanseerde boerderystelsels te bedryf wat nodig is vir goeie hulpbronbenutting en beskerming teen prysneigings en skommeling. In sy produksie-ekonomiese studies gee hy ook deurgaans aandag aan die invloed van plaasgrootte op boerderyresultate. Saam met sy belangstelling in hulpbronbeskerming en -benutting, wat onder meer reeds in sy bydraes tot die Agro-ekonomiese Opname neerslag gevind het, het hierdie sienings 'n logiese lyn geskep wat veel later uitgeloop het op die aanbevelings van sy Studiekomitee oor die Gebruik van Landbougrond (1968), wat die grondslag gevorm het vir die Wet op die Onderverdeling van Landbougrond in 1970.

Sy uitgebreide kennis van landbou-omstandighede dwarsdeur Suid-Afrika en die deeglike en logiese grondslag wat gelê is in sy navorsing oor etlike dekades op hierdie verskillende terreine, was 'n uitstekende voorbereiding vir die belangrike en veeleisende werk van die Tomlinsonkommissie, of soos hy verkies het om dit te noem, die Sosio-ekonomiese Kommissie. In sy mikro-ekonomiese ondersoekwerk het hy 'n goeie metodologiese basis geskep vir die omvattendste feite-opname wat daar nog oor boerderyomstandighede, -stelsels, -praktyke en -resultate in hierdie gebiede van digte bewoning beskikbaar was en nog steeds is. Ook in sy aanbevelings, wat daarop gerig was om 'n stand van voltydse kleinboere daar te stel, het hy faktore soos die toegang tot grond, afsetgebiede, krediet en voorligtingsdienste aangebied as faktore wat tot groot hoogte voorvereistes is vir die bereiking van daardie doel. Met hierdie insig loop hy en sy medewerkers met vele jare die latere denke oor hierdie onderwerp vooruit. Een van die tragedies van die na-oorlogse tydperk in Suid-Afrika is dat hierdie bevindings en aanbevelings nie opgevolg is nie.

Dit sou egter onvolledig wees om nie ook uit te wys nie dat daar in prof Tomlinson se werk nie 'n volledige sintese gekom het tussen sy siening oor plaasgroottes in die kommersiële landbousektor en sy Kommissie se aanbevelings oor 'n kleinboerontwikkelingspatroon in die Swart gebiede nie. Dit kan deels toegeskryf word aan die beperkende politieke raamwerk waarin die Kommissie sy opdrag moes uitvoer, maar vir 'n deel miskien ook uit 'n onvolledige oorweging van die verband tussen plaasgrootte en omringende omstandighede. In die keuse van wat onderliggend is aan die aanbevelings van die Studiekomitee oor die Gebruik van Grond, gaan byvoorbeeld 'n ander stel aannames oor inkomsteverwagtinge by boere uit as wat onderliggend is aan die kleinboer-ontwikkelingsbenadering wat in die sosio-ekonomiese Kommissie aanbeveel word. Dit hou ook nie daarmee rekening dat plaasgroottes nie net 'n bepalande voorwaarde is vir die gebruik van beskikbare tegnologie nie, maar dat 'n gevestigde patroon van plaasgroottes ook die aard en rigting van die tegnologie-ontwikkeling sodanig beïnvloed dat die tegnologie wat mettertyd beskikbaar kom, toenemend sekere minimum plaasgroottes vir hulle suksesvolle toepassing verg.

It should also be mentioned that even at this early stage he already paid attention to substitution between means of production, as can be seen in his publication on mechanisation as opposed to draught-animal power. For example, he compared the relative price of fodder to that of fuel, and although he did not follow this argument through to a complete sensitivity analysis with regard to all cost items - which can be appreciated bearing in mind the limitations of data processing at that time - he did raise questions in this publication which became much more topical later on, and in this way illustrated his ability to identify important issues timeously.

A theme which interested him throughout his career was the question of farm size and the influence it has on farming systems, farming practices and farming results. He warns against decreases in farm sizes in his publication on wheat producing areas, because it would place restrictions on the possibility of running the balanced farming system necessary for good resource utilisation and protection against price trends and fluctuations. In his production economics studies he also regularly paid attention to the influence of farm size on farming results. Together with his interest in the protection and utilisation of resources, which was inter alia already expressed in his contributions to the Agro-Economic Survey, his views created a logical thread, which found, much later, an outlet in the recommendations of his Study Committee on the Use of Arable Land (1968), which formed the basis for the Subdivision of Arable Land Act in 1970.

His extensive knowledge of agricultural conditions throughout South Africa and the thorough and logical groundwork he laid in his research over several decades in these different fields, was an excellent preparation for the important and exacting work of the Tomlinson Commission, or rather, as he preferred to call it, the Socio-Economic Commission. In his microeconomic investigations he developed a sound methodological basis for the most comprehensive factual survey ever undertaken on farming conditions, systems, practices and results in these densely populated areas. In his recommendations, which were aimed at setting up full time small farmers, he also suggested that factors such as access to land, markets, credit and extension services were prerequisites for the achievements of that goal. The insight of Tomlinson and his colleagues in this regard was years ahead of its time. One of the tragedies of the postwar era in South Africa was that these findings and recommendations were not followed up.

However, it would be incomplete not to point out that there was not a full synthesis in Professor Tomlinson's work between his view of farm size in the commercial agricultural sector and his Commission's recommendations on a development pattern for smallholders in the Black areas. This can partly be ascribed to the restrictive political framework within which his Commission had to fulfil its task, but partly perhaps also to an incomplete consideration of the relationship between farm size and surrounding circumstances. For example, the recommendation of the Study Committee on the Use of Land were based on a different set of assumptions on farmers' income expectations to that underlying the small-farmer development approach as recommended by the Socio-Economic Commission. Another aspect which was not taken into account was that farm size is not only a determining factor for the use of available technology but that a set pattern of farm size influences the type and direction of the technological development in such a way that the technology which becomes available in due course increasingly demands a minimum farm size for successful application. By contrast, another pattern of farm size could lead to the development of technologies which are less dependent on a minimum farm size. The Socio-Economic Commission acknowledged this possibility, at least by implication, as it was in fact a necessary condition for the implementation of their recommended approach to development.

'n Ander patroon van plaasgroottes sou daarenteen kon lei tot die ontwikkeling van tegnologieë wat minder afhanklik is van minimum plaasgroottes. Minstens per implikasie het die sosio-ekonomiese Kommissie hierdie moontlikheid erken, aangesien dit eintlik 'n noodsaaklike voorwaarde is vir die toepassing van hulle aanbevole ontwikkelingsbenadering.

Al die bogenoemde in ag genome, is die notule van prof. Tomlinson se bedrywigheid op die landbou-ekonomiese gebied niks minder nie as indrukwekkend. Wat beteken dit nou vir die agenda van die huidige geslag van landbou-ekonomie? Dit is, eerstens, duidelik dat prof. Tomlinson 'n besondere gave gehad het, en daarop ingeskerp was, om veranderinge in die boerdery-omgewing en die reaksie van individuele boere en groepe boere te antisipeer en vroegtydig die regte vrae daarvoor te vra en te ondersoek. In hierdie opsig was hy ten opsigte van 'n hele aantal kwessies sy tyd ver vooruit. Tweedens is dit duidelik dat hy die belangrike invloed van omringende ekonomiese en ander omstandighede vir die aksies en keuses van die individuele boer, en derhalwe vir boerderyvertakkings in die geheel erken en meesal duidelik ingesien het. Derdens het hy duidelik ingesien dat die keuse van landbou-beleid en -maatreëls nie goed kan geskied sonder 'n deeglike kennis van en insig in die omstandighede op die plaasvlak nie en dat die waarskynlike reaksies van boere die sukses wat met die deurvoering van beleid behaal kan word, derhalwe deeglik in ag geneem moet word, reeds by die formulering van die beleid.

In die huidige tydsgeewig sluit die omringende omstandighede, waarin die landbou in Suid-Afrika beoefen word die neiging in na 'n meer markgeoriënteerde ekonomiese beleid in die algemeen en landboubeleid in die besonder, asook die neiging na groter gelykheid van toegang vir alle werklike en potensiele landbou-produisente tot grondmarkte en ondersteuningsdienste, wat reeds 'n aanvang geneem het en na verwagting verder deurgerek sal word. Dit sluit ook in die veranderings in arbeidsreëlings wat eensyds uit die verstedelingsproses en andersyds uit die waarskynlike toepassing van minstens sekere dele van die arbeidswetgewing op die landbou sal voortspruit.

Hierdie en ander veranderings in die omgewing waarin die landbou in Suid-Afrika bedryf moet word, kan ingrypende implikasies inhou vir sowel die gevestigde kommersiële boerdery as vir onderhoude- en ontlukende kleinboere. Om hierdie implikasies te begryp en op grond daarvan 'n beleidsomgewing te skep vir 'n gewenste uitkoms wat onder meer betref die instandhouding en uitbreiding van landbouproduksie, is dit nodig om te antisipeer wat die reaksies op plaasvlak daarop sal wees van sowel die gevestigde as ontlukende boere. Om aan hierdie behoeftes te voldoen, sal die landbou-ekonomie van ons tyd dus, in die tradisie van FR Tomlinson, die vermoë moet hê om in ons navorsings- en beleidswerk, sowel die groter geheel as die kleiner besonderhede van die landbou en sy omgewing te hanteer.

Die huidige omstandighede verskil dus wel in verskillende opsigte grondig van die wat prof. Tomlinson se vroeëre agenda bepaal het. Dit blyk egter dat die soort vrae wat hy gestel het, as uitgangspunte vir sy vakkundige werk, sterk ooreenslaan met die soort vrae wat nou ter sake is. Die antwoorde wat hy gegee het, mag weliswaar verskil as gevolg van die veranderde omstandighede. Keuses is nou beskikbaar wat hy vanweë die destyds omringende omstandighede nie in ag kon neem nie. Dit het ook nou vanweë daardie veranderde omstandighede dringender geword om sekere onbeantwoorde vrae aan te spreek, soos kwessies van gepaste ondersteuningstelsels en tegnologie-ontwikkeling.

Self met sy groot ywer en die gehalte van sy bydraes het prof. Tomlinson dus nie die landbou-ekonomiese agenda afgehandel nie. Daar sal altyd 'n onafgehandelde agenda vir die landbou-ekonomie in Suider-Afrika wees. By die aanpak van daardie agenda kan daar met vrug teruggegaan word op die werk van prof. Tomlinson en geleer word uit die skerpheid van sy formulering van die vrae wat ter sake is, die deeglike verantwoorde metodologiese benaderings waarmee daardie

When one takes all of the above into account, it is clear that Professor Tomlinson's contribution to agricultural economics is nothing less than impressive. But what does this mean for the agenda of the present generation of agricultural economists?

In the first instance, it is clear that Professor Tomlinson had a special gift, which he used to good effect, for anticipating changes in the farming environment and in the reaction of both individual farmers and groups of farmers, and for asking the right questions at the right time, followed by investigations. In many of these instances he proved to be years ahead of his time. Secondly, it is evident that he recognised and had a clear insight into the important influence of surrounding economic and other circumstances on the actions and choices of the individual farmer, and thus on the different branches of farming as a whole. Thirdly, he clearly saw that good choices regarding agricultural policy and measures could not be made without a thorough knowledge of, and insight into, circumstances at the farm level, and that the probable reaction of farmers already had to be anticipated when formulating policy, if the implementation of the policy was to be successful.

At present, the circumstances within which agriculture is being practised in South Africa encourage the trend towards a more market-oriented economic policy in general and agricultural policy in particular. These circumstances also encourage the trend towards greater equality of access for all existing and potential agricultural producers to land markets and support services. This process has already been started and will, according to all expectations, be extended. It also includes the changes in labour regulations which, on the one hand may develop out of the urbanisation process, and, on the other hand, may come from the probable application of at least certain parts of the labour laws to agriculture.

These and other changes in the environment in which agriculture must be practised in South Africa could have far-reaching implications for the established commercial farmer as well as for subsistence and developing small farmers. To understand these implications and, on the basis of these, to develop a policy environment which will have the desired outcome with regard to, inter alia, the upkeep and expansion of agricultural production, it is necessary to anticipate what the reaction to them will be of the established as well as the developing farmers on the farm level. To comply with these needs, the agricultural economists of our time will, in the tradition of FR Tomlinson, have to have the capability to handle the greater whole as well as the smaller details of agriculture and its environment in their research and policy work.

The circumstances today differ greatly in various respects from those which determined Professor Tomlinson's agenda. It seems, however, that the type of questions which he raised as departure points for his specialised work bear a strong resemblance to the type of questions which are being considered today. The answers he gave may differ as a result of changed circumstances. Choices are now available which he, because of circumstances at the time, could not take into account. And because of those changed circumstances it has become even more vital to address certain unanswered questions, such as the issues of appropriate support systems and technological development.

Therefore, even with his great enthusiasm and the quality of his contributions, professor Tomlinson did not finalise the agenda of agricultural economics. There will always be an unfinished agenda for the agricultural economist in Southern Africa. Whenever this agenda is tackled, it will always be fruitful to look back on the work of Professor Tomlinson to learn from the focused formulation of the relevant questions, the thorough methodological approaches with which he addressed those questions, and the thoroughness of the information base which he set up for answering those questions.

vrae deur hom aangespreek is, en die deeglikheid van die inligtingsbasisse wat hy daargestel het vir die beantwoording van hierdie vrae.

Gegewe die groot bydrae wat hy op hierdie wyses tot die landbou-ekonomie in Suid-Afrika gemaak het, het die Landbou-ekonomiese Vereniging van Suider-Afrika 'n wyse stap geneem om 'n F R Tomlinson-gedenklesing in te stel. Ons erkenning van sy bydraes behoort egter nie daarby te eindig nie, maar moet ook insluit dat daar by die landbou-ekonomie van die huidige en toekomstige geslagte 'n bewustheid wakker gehou word van die landbou-ekonomiese tradisie wat hy help skep het.

In recognition of the great contribution he made to agricultural economics in South Africa, the Agricultural Economics Association of Southern Africa took the wise step of introducing an FR Tomlinson Memorial Lecture. Our acknowledgement of his contribution should, however, not end there, but should also include a continuous awareness, kept alive by present and future agricultural economists, of the agricultural economic tradition which he helped to establish.

NUUS VAN LEVSA SE BESTUUR

Die nuwe bestuur van LEVSA, soos verkies tydens die algemene jaarvergadering in 1991, het op 19 Februarie vir die eerste keer vergader. Die bestuur van LEVSA vir die volgende termyn sien as volg daar uit:

Nick Vink	President
Charles Machethe	Vise-President
Kobus Laubscher	Oud-President
Mark Lyster	1992 - Konferensie
Wiehahn Viviers	1993 - Konferensie
Bokkie Strauss	Addisionele lid

Die volgende lede is ook op die bestuur gekoöpteer:

Johann Kirsten	Sekretaris/Tesourier
Johan van Rooyen	IAAE verteenwoordiger
Johan van Zyl	Agrekon Redaksie
Theo Potgieter	Borgeskakeling

Die adres van LEVSA verander na:

Sekretaris: LEVSA
Posbus 25549
MONUMENTPARK
0105

Enige korrespondensie aan LEVSA kan aan die adres gerig word.

Daar word weereens 'n beroep gedoen op lede wat agterstallig is met ledegeld betalings om so gou as moontlik te betaal. Daar is tans sowat 200 van die 690 lede van LEVSA wat een jaar of meer agterstallig is.

1992 KONFERENSIE

Teen die tyd dat u hierdie Agrekon lees moes u al twee aankondigings ontvang het aangaande die 1992 konferensie. Soos u weet word dit vanaf 17 - 19 September 1992 by die Mount Aux Source hotel in die Drakensberge gehou. Die konferensietema is *Streekshandel en voedselsekureit* en dit belooft om 'n interessante en insiggewende konferensie te wees. Die konferensie beslaan twee vol dae. Die aand van die 17de September word opsy gesit vir registrasie en 'n geselligheid. Die konferensie skop die oggend van die 18de af en eindig laatmiddag op die 19de. Ons sien uit om so veel as moontlik LEVSA lede by die geleentheid te sien.

Daar is reeds in die vorige twee afkondigings gevra dat lede referate moet voorlê vir die gekeurde referate sessie. Lede wat belangstel om referate voor te lê, word daaraan herinner dat referate volgens die vereistes van Agrekon voorgelê moet word. Ons sien ook uit na 'n interessante gekeurde referate sessie. Hierdie sessie is reeds een van die hoogtepunte van die konferensie.