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C O W B E L L

XXV International Conference of Agricultural Economists, August 16-22, 2003, Durban, South Africa



CONFERENCE BULLETIN



Pre-Conference Issue

17 Augustus 2003

Dear IAAE Members:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you personally and on behalf of the Executive of the IAAE to the Twenty-Fifth International Conference of Agricultural Economists. The theme: "Reshaping Agriculture's Contribution to Society", is a global issue which has to be addressed with different perspectives by country and region around the world. Holding our Conference for a third time in the IAAE's history in Africa is timely, and promising. Our profession has been growing and is of excellent quality in Africa today, and is also very much needed for contributing to society. The program developed by David Colman, our Vice-President Programs, is innovative, and offers many opportunities and challenges for us throughout our stay in Durban. We have a large number of high quality papers, poster and computer sessions, the workshops and mini-symposia. The excellent work by the managers of the related program components (Michele and Terry Veman; Kejiro Otsuka; Wallace Tyner; Peter Wehrheim) is much appreciated as a service to our profession. All in all, an interesting and challenging week for all of us.

During our conference the IAAE Council, the governing body of the IAAE, will be meeting on Monday and Thursday. During these sessions we will be reviewing the work of the Executive, electing new officers, electing new Life Members, and making decisions about the future organization and operation of the Association, including our Journal. In a future Cowbell, the Executive will describe these agenda items for your consideration. It is important that you organize your country representatives to attend the Council meetings.

I want to thank at the outset all of the people who have worked so long and hard to bring our Twenty-Fifth Conference together in Durban. The work began even before our last triennial Conference in Berlin. The Local Organizing Committee under the leadership of Gerhard Coetzee and Johann Kirsten of the University of Pretoria has done a wonderful job of providing a home for us this week in this pleasant and interesting city and dynamic country of South Africa. I want to thank the Government of South Africa, the National Steering Committee, chaired by Bongiwe Njobe (Director General National Department of Agriculture), and all of the organisations and companies that have provided support to making this a successful conference. Please take the time to thank representatives of the Local Organizing Committee, the donors and organisations who have contributed so generously to our Conference as you encounter them during your stay in Durban.

Let me wish all of you a very warm "welcome" to our XXV Conference in Durban. I look forward to renewing acquaintances with old friends and meeting new friends from around the world involved in our profession of agricultural economics.

Sincerely,
Joachim von Braun
President, IAAE

Welcome to Durban

Dear Delegate

A warm welcome to South Africa and to Durban. The Local Organizing Committee is indeed honoured to have you here. The Conference marks the culmination of three years of hard work by a core group of committee members. The conference takes place in Durban, a city rich in culture and natural resources, situated in the land of the Zulu people. Steeped in a history marked by the reign of Shaka, King of the Zulus and the arrival of the first settlers in the 18th Century. During the 20th Century the city of Durban went through many changes and today is a thriving, fast growing city of 2.3 million people, characterized by vast differences in income and wealth, but also strengthened by its diversity.

Our approach with the conference has been to combine many factors that will provide opportunity for learning and participation, placed in an environment that is conducive to our objectives. This is also a forum where you are requested to engage and to share. No idea of new should be lost and your participation will enrich us all.

Thus, a warm African and South African welcome. We hope you enjoy the Conference and your stay in Durban. Please do not hesitate to approach any of the local organizing committee members should you need information and assistance.

Gerhard Coetzee and Johann Kirsten
Co-chair: Local Organizing Committee

Origins of the IAAE

The International Association of Agricultural Economists grew out of a conference hosted by Leonard Elmhirst at his home in Dartington Hall, Devon, England in late August and early September 1929. Fifty agricultural economists from 11 countries attended. There were representatives from Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Trinidad, the United Kingdom and the United States. Those present felt they had gained so much in improved understanding of both the differences and commonalities in the problems they faced in research and teaching that they resolved to find ways to increase their contacts and promote greater understandings among themselves and their colleagues.

With generous financial support from the Carnegie Endowment and the Elmhirst family a second Conference was held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., in August 1930 with 309 representatives from 20 countries attending: 234 were from the US and Canada coming from 30 states and 5 provinces. A Constitution for

IAAE was developed and adopted under the leadership of Arthur Ashby (Aberystwyth, UK). The Conference extended over 10 days with presentations from 84 speakers. It was agreed that the proceedings should be published for the first two conferences under the leadership of F.F. Hill, one of the subsequent leaders in the founding of IRRI, CIMMYT and the international agricultural research centers. Many of the traditions of our Conferences stem from these beginnings.

Organization

The IAAE is governed by a Council of officers and member delegates. National and area branches, made up of members in specific countries or a group of countries, promote the objectives of IAAE within their country or area. Each branch designates a member as its representative to provide liaison between its members and the IAAE Executive Committee. The elected officers of the IAAE are President, President Elect, Past President, Vice President Program, Secretary-Treasurer, and two at-large members who constitute the Executive Committee. This committee acts for the Council between Council meetings. The officers appoint a proceedings editor and an editor-in-chief of its international journal *Agricultural Economics*. Both of these appointees serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

Objectives

The objectives of the IAAE are to:

- Foster the application of agricultural economics to improve rural economic and social conditions;
 - Advance knowledge of agriculture's economic organization;
 - Facilitate communication and information exchange among those concerned with rural welfare
-

Membership

Membership in the IAAE is for a three-year period, currently from January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2004. Members receive the IAAE Newsletter, the Proceedings of the triennial conference, a Special Issue of the journal containing conference papers, and access to the IAAE web page "Members Only" section. An IAAE directory is made available after each conference containing the names and addresses of all members.

At the XXIV Conference of the IAAE in Berlin, Germany, the IAAE Council approved a new structure for membership fees based on income, and linked to the subscription for *Agricultural Economics*, the Journal of the IAAE. All fees are expressed in US dollars, and cover the three year period, beginning January 2002.

Income Level	Fees
Retirees	US\$ 90
Students	US\$ 90
Less than US\$25,000	US\$ 90
More than US\$25,000 and less than US\$50,000	US\$145
More than US\$50,000	US\$175

Anyone who does not wish to subscribe to *Agricultural Economics*, The Journal of the IAAE, will be offered a \$30 discount from the above prices. Students will be asked to have a faculty member who is a member of the IAAE to confirm that the applicant is enrolled as a student in an institution of higher learning.

Earlier IAAE Conferences

Year	Location	Professionals Attending
1929	Totnes, Devon, England	50
1930	Ithaca, New York, USA	300
1934	Bad Eilsen, Germany	170
1936	St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland	219
1938	Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, Canada	510
1947	Totnes, Devon, England	82
1949	Stresa, Italy	271
1952	East Lansing, Michigan, USA	340
1955	Helsinki, Finland	364
1958	Mysore, India	350
1961	Cuernavaca, Mexico	485
1964	Lyon, France	562

Year	Location	Professionals Attending
1967	Sydney, Australia	501
1970	Minsk, USSR	685
1973	Sao Paulo, Brazil	695
1976	Nairobi, Kenya	656
1979	Banff, Alberta, Canada	795
1982	Jakarta, Indonesia	480
1985	Malaga, Spain	823
1988	Buenos Aires, Argentina	759
1991	Tokyo, Japan	908
1994	Harare, Zimbabwe	691
1997	Sacramento, California, USA	781
2000	Berlin, Germany	951

The Tradition of the Cowbell

It is a tradition that each triennial Conference of the IAAE is opened and closed by the ringing of a "cow bell". Presumably this was an appropriate way to call an agricultural meeting to order in England in the 1920s. It now symbolizes the need to remember our roots in agriculture during conference discussions.

Leonard Elmhirst wrote the following statement about the actual origin of the first bell in this conference bulletin, *The CowBell*, August 25, 1955 in Finland. "The first cow bell was not I suspect a cow bell but a sheep bell. It came from an old shop in Amesbury, the nearest village to Stonehenge, the Bronze Age druidic temple on Salisbury Plain, England. Here the Celts grazed their flocks on the chalky pastures high above the swamps and heavy forest where the Saxons later found the richest farmland. In World War II it was found possible to fertilize and plough these downs which had not been cultivated for 3000 years and then only in tiny welchets, or small strips. This bell had a quaint shape and harness of its own with leather neck harness and oak pegs. It is represented on the back of every volume of our official proceedings. It was presented to our first Vice-President, G. F. Warren of Cornell and is now one of his family heirlooms. Our present bell, acquired before the 1949 conference in Stresa, is a real cow bell from Chamoniz in Switzerland."

The preceding quote is taken from John Raeburn's *History of the IAAE*, p.172. Raeburn goes on to say that in an issue of *The CowBell* at the Lyon Conference in 1964 it was reported that, "The large bell presented on Monday to the Association by Denis Bergmann on behalf of the French Committee is about a hundred years old. Despite its size it is a genuine Alpine cow bell..." The present whereabouts of this Alpine cowbell is something of a mystery.

IAAE Council Meeting

First Meeting	Monday	18 August 2003	19H00	Hall 2CDE
Second Meeting	Thursday	21 August 2003	17H30	Hall 2CDE

The council is the major policy formulating board of IAAE. It consists of the Executive Committee and members selected by the country and area branches. It meets only during the IAAE conferences. If a Council member from a country/area branch is not present, branch members in attendance may designate one of their group as an alternative Council member.

The number of Council members for a country/area is determined in accordance with the number of IAAE members in the country or area for the current conference period 2002-2004 or the prior conference period 1999-2001, whichever is larger. The schedule for Council members is: 0-4 IAAE members, 0 Council members; 5-10 IAAE members, 1 Council members; 11-25 IAAE members, 2 Council members; 26-60 IAAE members, 3 Council members; 61 or more IAAE members, 4 Council members.

Normally, if the Country/Area Representatives (see list in Issue # 2) are attending the conference, they will ensure that their country/area is represented at the Council Meeting by an appropriate number of Councilors. However, in the absence of a Country/Area Representative from a particular country/area, any participant from that area may take the lead to ensure the country/area in question is represented.

Country/Area Representatives attending the XXV ICAE are asked to remind the Council members from their country to attend. Should a Councilors not be participating in the XXV ICAE, the Country Representative may invite someone else from the country in question to act as a substitute.

All Country/Area Representatives should give the names of the Councilors from their country/area who will be attending the Council Meeting on Monday. This list of names should be provided well before the meeting.

Please turn in the lists to the IAAE Membership Desk in the registration area.

Leonard Elmhirst

Leonard Elmhirst (1893-1974) came from a land-owning family in Yorkshire. His experience on a trip to India led him to take a course in agriculture at Cornell University. Whilst at Cornell, Leonard met (and later married) Dorothy Whitney Straight, widow of U.S. diplomat, Willard Straight, and daughter of William C. Whitney, the fabulously wealthy American businessman and statesman. Dorothy Elmhirst's money enabled the couple to buy Dartington Hall (in Devonshire, in the UK) in 1925, found the well-known school there based on unorthodox teaching methods, and also found the world-famous music centre. They also, later, endowed a building at Oxford University (named Dartington House) which housed the Agricultural Economics Institute attended by many overseas and UK agricultural development economists. Cornell University had extensive interests and influence in India and China, and there was a natural empathy about international development and affairs between senior academics there, notably George Warren and Carl Ladd, and the Elmhirsts. Their relationship led to the proposal for an international conference in 1928, when Carl Ladd was on sabbatical at Dartington. In early 1929 Leonard Elmhirst issued invitations to the first IAAE conference which was held at Dartington Hall later that year. The conference was attended by only 50 people, 11 from the USA, 24 from the UK, with the remaining 15 coming from nine other countries. Elmhirst himself became the first President of the IAAE, and lent it unstinting support throughout his life.

The first conference lasted eight days, which set the pattern for all subsequent conferences - it is now reduced to six days. But there were only 18 formal sessions during that time – a far cry from Durban’s crowded schedule

The Elmhirst Lecture

In honour of Leonard K. Elmhirst the Elmhirst Lectures were instituted in 1976. The lecturers have been:

T. W. Schultz	University Chicago	1976
Sir W. A. Lewis	Princeton University	1979
Keith O. Campbell	University Sydney	1982
Amartya Sen	Oxford University	1985
Yujiro Hayami	Aoyama Gunkin University	1988
V. S. Vyas	Inst. Development Studies	1991
D. Gale Johnson	University Chicago	1994
Yair Mundlak	Hebrew University	1997
James T. Bonnen	Michigan State University	2000
Bruce Gardener	University of Maryland	2003

Bruce Gardner is distinguished University Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, since 1981 except during 1989-1991 when he was Assistant Secretary for Economics at the US Department of Agriculture. His most recent book is 'American Agriculture in the 20th Century: How It Flourished and What It Cost?' (Harvard, 2002). He was President of the American Agricultural Economics Association in 2000-01, and is a Fellow of the Association. His main research focus has been on agricultural policies in the US and elsewhere.

Members Noticeboard

The last pages of the daily COWBELL is the place for exchanging ideas, distributing information and communicating with members. If you want to organize an Ad-hoc discussion group or reunions or communicate other things to the conference attendants, just let us know and it will be published in the next COWBELL!!

Leave your notices for the COWBELL with your name and your hotel room and phone number at the IAAE Office (Room 23 A&B, third floor) by noon of the day before publication.

Notice to all Members

Conference participants, please check your membership records (including address, telephone numbers, email address, etc.) with the IAAE membership desk (in the registration area) from Saturday (16 August) through Thursday (21 August). The preferred way to check the accuracy of records is on-line at: <http://www.iaae-agecon.org>. You can make corrections and submit the changes (which will be updated automatically).

NOTICE

Airport Transfers

Please be reminded that return Airport Transfers will only be available until Saturday 23 August 2003. Should you wish to make alternative arrangements, please see Michelle at the Travel/Tours desk.

NOTICE

Conference Questionnaire

It is important for the organisers of the next IAAE that the 2003 organising committee hand over as much information as possible. We cannot do that without your assistance. Please complete the questionnaire and return to the Registration Desk – a lucky draw will take place at the end of the conference for all those who submit their questionnaires.

NOTICE

All SAA Travellers

If you have travelled to the conference on SAA, please give a photostat copy of your flight ticket to Michelle at the Travel/Tours desk in order to qualify for a prize. The draw will be announced during the conference.

NOTICE

Technical Tours

The Tours desk will be open from Monday 08h00 until Tuesday 13h00. There are still some seats available on the Technical Tours. We have also arranged a scenic tour to Oribi Gorge for those who could not book on one of the Technical Tours or would like to change their tour:

The spectacular Oribi Gorge is one of the Hibiscus Coast's best-known beauty spots. The gorge was formed over millions of years as the Mzimkulwana river flowed over the flat land surface and picked out fractures in the rock, gradually eroding them away and cutting deep into the earth's crust. Due to its inaccessibility, the gorge has remained virtually untouched by man and has more than 500 plant species. It contains a wealth of semi-deciduous forests criss-crossed with antelope paths and is home to 255 bird species and numerous small mammals, including the rare samango monkeys. There are several walking trails between 1km and 9 km in length, offering walkers a chance to explore the gorge's magnificent grassland and forest sections.

Remember to bring some spending money for real African Arts and Crafts.

NOTICE

Christian Gathering

This is a reminder for all those wishing to attend that a Christian Gathering will be held on Sunday 17 August 2003 from 17h30 to 19h00 in Meeting Room 21ABC

NOTICE

Conference Dinner

Gather your friends together and book your seat or a table of 10 for the Conference Dinner by presenting your Conference Dinner Voucher, which you will receive at registration, at the Conference Dinner desk on Tuesday and Wednesday.

If you do not book your seat by 17h00 on Wednesday, you will be seated at the organisers discretion.

The dress for the dinner is business attire or traditional dress.

The voucher for the Conference Dinner has been included in your registration envelope

NOTICE

Lunch Vouchers

Lunch vouchers are still available at the Registration Desk at a cost of US\$10

SOUTH AFRICAN TRIVIA

South Africa is one of only 12 countries where **tap water** is safe to drink. Its tap water is rated the third best worldwide.

Officially, the **youngest language** in the world is **Afrikaans**. By the early-20th century Afrikaans had developed from Dutch, French and other influences into a fully-fledged language with its own dictionary. After a mere **90 years**, it is the second most spoken language in South Africa (Zulu is the most spoken, the Zulu people being the largest ethnic group).

Electricity costs in South Africa are the lowest in the world.

The **Tugela Falls** in KwaZulu Natal, at 948m (3110ft), is the second highest waterfall in the world.

Source: www.insanetree.com

RECOMMENDED SOUTH AFRICAN BOOKS

History & Politics

Top of the list must be Nelson Mandela's autobiography, **The Long Walk to Freedom**. It is available in hardcover (R284.00), paperback (R154.00) and an illustrated edition, which makes for a wonderful gift, at (R254.00).

Of related interest is **Nelson Mandela: A life in cartoons** (R174.00), a heartwarming look at an icon through the eyes of the country's leading newspaper cartoonists.

While you will read about national events in Mandela's autobiography, Antjie Krog takes us on a heartrending tour of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in her book, **Country of My Skull** (R164.00). This tells the stories of the "little people" (as Desmond Tutu referred to them) through the eyes of the author, who was intimately involved with the TRC.

And from the old into the new: In **Defining Moments** (R133.00) Wendy Luhabe takes a look at the experiences of black executives in the top companies in South Africa and the concept of "black empowerment".

All the books are available at Exclusive Books (Durban International Airport).

JOKE OF THE DAY

"George Stigler Nobel laureate and a leader of Chicago School was asked why there were no Nobel Prizes awarded in the other social sciences, sociology, psychology, history, etc. "Don't worry", Stigler said, "they already have a Nobel Prize in ...Literature"