



# **African Association of Agricultural Economists**

## **Association Africaine des Agroeconomistes**

November 2015

e-Newsletter Volume 2 No 4

### **EDITORIAL**

The e-Newsletter of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE) has now been a regular feature of the Association for two years. Over these years we had reason to celebrate: we congratulated Dr Akinwumi Adesina on his appointment as the 8<sup>th</sup> President of the African Development Bank Group and Prof Nick Vink on his election as the President-Elect of the International Association for Agricultural Economists (IAAE). We unfortunately also had to mourn the loss of distinguished members such as Prof Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere from IFPRI in Ghana and Prof Francis Sulemanu Idachaba formerly from Kogi State University in Nigeria.

In addition to Association news, we succeeded in providing a platform to share information on exciting initiatives – such as the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) in this edition as well as the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) and RUFORUM in previous editions.

Features with tips on getting published in AfJARE and the results from a survey of AAAE members were part of the line-up and job opportunities and news from other associations featured regularly in the e-Newsletter. Last, but not the least; since the previous edition the e-Newsletter is also being translated into French which will increase its reach.

However, members must realise that the e-Newsletter is only as good as the contributions received. Please provide us with news, information, new developments, photos, awards, achievements, letters to the editor, innovations in our subject field and/or event information. Forward all contributions, clearly marked "Newsletter Editor" to the Secretariat of the AAAE or directly to the Editor at DirkT@elsenburg.com.

The Association's Executive Committee wishes all members an outstanding festive season and hope that everybody will start the New Year full of agricultural economic fire and zest.

### **AAAE**

## **2016 CONFERENCE**

Date: 23 – 26 September 2016  
Venue: United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Theme: Transforming smallholder agriculture in Africa: The role of policy and governance

The 2016 Conference of the Association is drawing closer and members can use the opportunity presented by the festive season to prepare their papers for submission. Although papers only have to be submitted by 7 March 2016, there is no reason to wait; papers can already be submitted at [conference@aaae-africa.org](mailto:conference@aaae-africa.org). Please do not forget that the opportunity also exist to submit proposals for symposia; an ideal occasion to create a platform for collaborative work.

The draft programme currently make provision for 4 plenary sessions, two invited panel sessions and 4 contributed paper sessions in which 96 papers can be presented.

Papers (and proposals) can be submitted in either English or French and all papers will be submitted to a double-blind referee process.

Although notification of acceptance of papers will take place by 6 June 2015, authors must remember that their papers will not be included in the programme until they have registered, renewed their membership and paid the conference fees. Authors must also note that they will be requested to participate in the review process.

### **CONTACT AAAE**

Secretariat: Jeffers Miruka  
AAAE, c/o University of Nairobi, CAVS, Upper Kabete Campus  
E-mail: [info@aaae-africa.org](mailto:info@aaae-africa.org)  
Tel: 254 (0)57 251 1300  
Mobile: 254 (0)72 283 1531  
Web: [aaae-africa.org](http://aaae-africa.org) | [afiare.org](http://afiare.org)

## **The Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI): 2015 Baseline Conference**

### **Andrew Partridge (Western Cape Dept. of Agriculture, South Africa)**

The Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) was formed in November 2012 after recognition of the lack of coordination between the different agricultural research institutes on regional policy analysis in Africa. The initial countries represented under ReNAPRI were the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. Since then institutes in Uganda, Zimbabwe and recently Ethiopia have been included as ReNAPRI members.

2015 saw the second Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders Conference, hosted by Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. The two day conference ran from 27 – 28 October and was attended by ReNAPRI research institutes as well as several other international research institutes and companies. In addition to introducing and discussing the ReNAPRI 2015 Outlook, entitled “Anticipating the Future of Agriculture in the Region: Outlook for Maize, Wheat, Sugar and Rice”, the conference made space for discussion and debate around key policy issues affecting agriculture in the region.

The conference began with the official launch of Mozambique’s Centro de Estudos de Politicas e Programas Agroalimentares (CEPPAG), a research centre founded by the United Nations (UN) for agricultural policy at Eduardo Mondlane University. Interactive sessions allowed for audience voting through electronic devices to reveal aggregate opinions on various issues. From these sessions it was revealed that “mega trends” shaping the African continent at the moment are likely to have strong implications for agricultural production in the ReNAPRI region, but it is believed that policy can have a significant influence on the resulting impact. Audience voting also revealed that yield growth is the most important source of agricultural GDP growth in the region, particularly in Southern Africa and less so in Central Africa where area expansion remains very important.

The 2015 ReNAPRI Outlook features regional projections for maize, wheat, sugar and rice until 2024. The forecasts reveal a rise in maize consumption within ReNAPRI countries, for human consumption and, particularly in South Africa, for animal feed. By 2024 it is predicted that South Africa, Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania will all be net exporters of maize, all other ReNAPRI countries will be net importers. The wheat outlook, done only for Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia, reveals a significant rise in consumption but production to remain constant. This suggests demand will be filled with increasing imports from elsewhere, but also highlights an opportunity to produce wheat in new locations. The rice outlook revealed a growing area under rice production in Tanzania. Finally, the sugar outlook revealed a possible decline in Zambian sugar exports due to the loss of preferential access into the European Union (EU), Zambia’s main sugar export destination.

Several other thought provoking sessions covered issues of pertinence to agriculture in the region. These issues included large scale consolidation of agri business in Africa, the possible future impacts of the 2015 drought, potential policy and regulation changes affecting exports to the EU, the importance of the informal market particularly for rice and maize, the need for better post-harvest management, the rise of medium-scale farmers in Africa and the need to remove costly barriers to the movement of goods and people across African borders.

Key initiatives in the region were also discussed at length including the Malabo Declaration, the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Africa (RUFORUM). The conference also marked the start-up of IFAMA Africa, a network of academics, agri/food business executives and public agencies. Additionally, lessons were drawn from overseas initiatives such as the USA Outlook done for the past 30 years by FAPRI, the OECD Outlook done by the FAO and the Kaleidoscope model developed by the IFPRI to analyse the impact of food security policy.

Despite only being two days long, the ReNAPRI conference managed to have in depth discussions about a number of very important issues. It provided the perfect platform to launch the 2015 Outlook for the region, a publication which contains vital information to help make better and more effective decisions for policy makers and other agricultural stakeholders. Fittingly, at the beginning of the conference, the issue was raised that there is a need for agricultural research in Africa, but research is always done by non-Africans. The ReNAPRI Conference showed what can be achieved when African agricultural research is done by African organisations, succeeding through collaboration and hopefully leading the way for more of this into the future.