

AAEA News

Travel Grants for Economists from Low Income & Lower-Middle Income Countries

During the 2014 AAEA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, AAEA welcomed the 2014 recipients of the Travel Grants for Economists from low and lower-middle income countries. These individuals were selected from more than 40 applicants to the travel grant program to attend the meeting, network, and present their research in a Selected Paper session. More information about past winners of the LI-LMI Travel Grant program can be found on the [AAEA website](#).

2014 Travel Grant Recipients



- Rajib Sutradhar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
- Sendhil Ramadas, Directorate of Wheat Research, India
- Taiwo Ejiola Mafimisebi, Mulungushi University, Zambia
- Opeyemi Ayinde, University of Ilorin, Nigeria
- Alaba Modupe Dare, Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria
- Assa Maganga, Lilongwe University, Malawi



Call for Nominations:

Travel Grants for Economists from Low Income & Lower-Middle Income Countries

The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Trust invites nominations for economists from low and lower-middle income countries to be awarded full travel grants to attend the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, July 26–28. Nominees should be professional economists who are from and residing in a low income or lower-middle income country. A complete list of qualifying countries is available under the headings “Low-income economies” and “Lower-middle-income

economies”:

http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups#Low_income or see list on page 2.

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Nominees should be working in one or more of the following fields or another closely related field of applied economics: agribusiness economics and Management, agricultural economics, economic development, food and consumer economics, regional economics, or resource and environmental economics.

Nominations should include:

1. Nominee's name, institution, postal address, and e-mail address.
2. Nominator's name, institution, postal address, and e-mail address.
3. Brief statement of support written by the nominator.
4. Brief statement of interest written by the nominee.
5. Proposed travel budget.
6. Paper (no longer than 20pp. double-spaced pages, including tables and figures) describing the research to be presented at the meetings

*Eligible nominators include department chairs or administrators, advisors, or any AAEA member.

Nomination packages should be submitted electronically in a single PDF to Brian Mondragón Jones at bmjones@aaea.org by 5 pm CDT on **Monday, November 4, 2014**.

Selected applicants will be scheduled to present their research (as a paper or poster) during the meeting. Details regarding presentation will be provided after the acceptance notices are sent out.

The funds for these travel grants are provided by a grant from USDA-Economic Research Service.

Low Income Economies

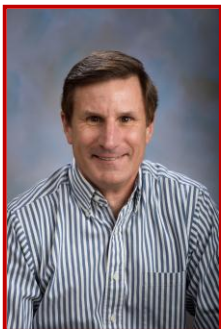
Afghanistan	Gambia, The	Nepal
Bangladesh	Guinea	Niger
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Rwanda
Burkina Faso	Haiti	Sierra Leone
Burundi	Kenya	Somalia
Cambodia	Korea, Dem Rep.	Tajikistan
Central African Republic	Liberia	Tanzania
Chad	Madagascar	Togo
Comoros	Malawi	Uganda
Congo, Dem. Rep	Mali	Zimbabwe
Eritrea	Mozambique	
Ethiopia	Myanmar	

Lower – Middle Income Economies

Armenia	Kiribati	São Tomé and Príncipe
Bhutan	Kosovo	Senegal
Bolivia	Kyrgyz Republic	Solomon Islands
Cameroon	Lao PDR	South Sudan
Cabo Verde	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Congo, Rep.	Mauritania	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Swaziland
Djibouti	Moldova	Syrian Arab Republic
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
El Salvador	Morocco	Ukraine
Georgia	Nicaragua	Uzbekistan
Ghana	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Guatemala	Pakistan	Vietnam
Guyana	Papua New Guinea	West Bank and Gaza
Honduras	Paraguay	Yemen, Rep.
Indonesia	Philippines	Zambia
India	Samoa	

Member Profiles

John Loomis



1. What motivated you to pursue Agricultural/Applied Economics as a profession?

I was initially motivated by my desire to improve decision making in the Federal public land management agencies for which I worked; first Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and then U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At the time few people in BLM thought economics could help them understand the tradeoffs they were facing. They thought using Input-Output models to quantify the income and employment effects of their management actions was all that economics could offer. Some people in Federal public land management agencies were downright hostile to the idea that economics could provide insights on economic efficiency of visitor use rationing and decisions on whether it was economically efficient to recommend an area as wilderness. I was hopeful if I used some agency data to show BLM how it could improve its decision making and got it published in a peer reviewed scientific journal, it might at least nudge them into considering economics in their decision making. These articles were some of my first journal articles.

2. Why did you join AAEA, and how has membership in the Association impacted your professional development?

I joined AAEA because some of the best articles in non-market valuation were coming out in AJAE. As such I decided to become a member

and get the journal. After becoming a member I learned more about the annual meetings. When possible I began attending the meetings, and was always impressed with the high caliber of the papers presented. The journal articles and the meetings papers set the standard that I was striving for in my articles whether for AJAE or for other journals. The annual meetings also provided opportunities to meet other economists, some of which eventually became co-authors.

3. What advice would you give to an up and coming Agricultural/Applied Economist?

Treat your graduate students like future colleagues and they will be. Don't be disappointed if your articles don't have an immediate impact, they eventually will, and sometimes in ways you never expected. Your articles will be waiting there in the literature for that particular problem to rise to the top of the policy agenda or for a receptive policy maker to come along and seize upon your ideas.

Rob King

1. What motivated you to pursue Agricultural/Applied Economics as a profession?

As an undergraduate I majored in anthropology and did not even take an economics course. After college I spent two years in the Peace Corps in Benin working with



farmers. When I returned I began exploring options for graduate school. I visited friends at Michigan State University and met Professor Carl Eicher, who had several large, ongoing projects in West Africa. He encouraged me to apply for the graduate program in Agricultural Economics, which I did. I spent a summer taking intermediate micro and macroeconomics courses, had the good fortune to work with Derek Byerlee on my M.S. thesis, and quickly realized that I had found my life's work. My research interests have changed, but my passion for using economics to understand how people make decisions and how production and consumption are connected through the food system only continued to grow. So for me, it was happenstance and good luck that brought me to our profession.

2. Why did you join AAEA, and how has membership in the Association impacted your professional development?

I joined AAEA in 1978, when I learned that I would be receiving the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award at that year's annual meeting. I have been a member ever since. Through AAEA I've had opportunities to present and publish my work; I've been able to develop friendships and working relationships with colleagues who

share professional interests; and I've had a chance to give back to the profession through committee work, service on the Executive Board and as President, and as a mentor.

3. What advice would you give to an up and coming Agricultural/Applied Economist?

1. Find questions, issues and problems that interest you and are interesting and important for others. Then let the problem dictate your research strategy; don't let methods define the problem.
2. Be open to and follow up on hunches, even though most of them will not pan out. Creativity often comes out of logical leaps to ideas that may be true. While economics gives us a very useful way of looking at the world, it also can be useful to approach problems with a "beginner's mind" that is free from disciplinary blinders.
3. As a teacher, focus on learning activities that develop "generativity" – the insight and ability to adapt and use an idea, method or tool in many different settings. Case study analyses, problem sets and even exam questions are not just a "one-off" exercises to be finished and forgotten. They should be carefully crafted illustrations of problem solving processes that can be applied in many ways.



**Join AAEA at the
2015 ASSA Annual
Conference in Boston, MA!**

Call for Applications**Editorship of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics***

Editorship appointments for the American Journal of Agricultural Economics are staggered such that two new appointments are made every two years. The AAEA Board now seeks applications for two editors to be appointed for a four-year term, beginning in January 2016. Each editor handles approximately one-fourth of the submitted manuscripts and makes independent editorial decisions on these submissions. The degree to which candidate's expertise complements that of the continuing editors, James Vercammen and Junjie Wu, will be considered in the selection process.



In addition, editors share the administrative responsibilities of managing the AJAE. Each editor should plan to dedicate 25 to 40 percent of his/her time to AJAE editorial duties. AAEA will provide financial assistance to defray some portion of the editors' time and most expenses.

The new editors should be prepared to begin the transition process on August 1, 2015 and expect to be fully engaged in editorial duties by January 1, 2016. The AAEA Board will make final selections by early 2015. Interested candidates can consult the journal website for information on the journal at <http://www.ajae.oxfordjournals.org/>. Please note that all editors need to maintain their AAEA membership throughout their service to the journal.

Applications should include a brief statement expressing interest which should include applicant's areas of expertise and editorial philosophy for the AJAE, curriculum vitae (including descriptions of previous editorial work) and statements of administrative support from the candidate's department chair, dean or other appropriate administrative officer. Applications should be sent electronically via PDF to Brian Mondragón Jones, Executive Director, at bmjones@aaea.org by December 1, 2014. Nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.

It's time to start thinking about the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting!

Information on how to submit paper and session
proposals can be found at

<http://www.aaea.org/meetings/2015-aaea-waea-joint-annual-meeting>.

2015 AAEA & WAEA
JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



JULY 26-28, 2015

Joint EAAE/AAEA Seminar Consumer Behavior in a Changing World: **FOOD, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

NAPLES, ITALY | **March 25-27, 2015**



Joint EAAE/AAEA Seminar

The main goal of the seminar is to provide an integrated multidisciplinary approach to the analysis of food consumption and consumer behavior. It aims to encourage broad discussion among economists, sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists and marketing scholars on the role of food consumption in the late modern society and on the need to adopt innovative tools for the analysis of consumer's behavior and choices.

For more information on the seminar, please visit the main page at <http://www.143eaae-aaea-seminar.org/>.

Abstract Submission

Participants who would like to present a paper are requested to submit an abstract in English (max 3500 keystrokes including spaces; Times New Roman font, size 12, double spacing) before **October 31, 2014** using the *Conf Tool Platform* available on the website of the seminar: <http://www.143eaae-aaea-seminar.org/>. The abstract should indicate: the question addressed, theoretical background, methods, results and potential for discussion.

- **October 31, 2014:** Abstract submissions due
- **December 1, 2014:** Notification of acceptance/rejection
- **January 20, 2015:** Last day to register for the seminar
- **February 28, 2015:** Submission of full versions of accepted papers due

Download the [flyer for the call for papers](#) for more information.



C-FARE Update



Budget and Appropriations

A Short-Term Continuing Resolution (H.J.Res. 124) was approved on a vote of 78 to 22 by the US Senate late last week.

The legislation continues to fund the US Federal Government at the current annual cap rate of \$1.012 trillion until December 11, 2014. The President signed shortly thereafter. The House and Senate continue work on an omnibus funding bill for fiscal year 2015 that will include all 12 appropriations bills.

- *House Statement (September 17)*
<http://appropriations.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=393906>
- *Senate Statement (September 18)*
<http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/statement-chairwoman-mikulski-following-senate-approval-continuing-resolution>
- *President's Statement via C-SPAN (September 18)*
<http://www.c-span.org/video/?321561-3%2Fpresident-obama-statement-continuing-resolution>

DC News

The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry held a hearing focusing on the benefits of soil health and conservation practices. Discussion during the hearing centered on the history and role of the agency, efforts to improve soil health on the state and local level, how the new farm bill will improve conservation practices and soil management, and what other methods can be taken to protect our natural resources. Click here for the archived [webcast](#). [Mr. Jason Weller](#), Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC was among the witnesses that testified.

Of particular interest was an exchange between the House Agriculture Committee Chairman Lucas and [Mr. Larson](#), CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts that focused on the economic value of increasing soil health. Chairman Lucas asked the panel about their “chief challenges” going forward. Mr. Larson stated that “agricultural production is a business” and (building healthy soils) is a “business decision,” he went on to express concern that “we can’t just go off of anecdotal information. We need to have sound research...that shows us how these decisions (to change practices) will impact the farmer’s economic viability” (section is paraphrased) (Hr:Min. 1:12 – 1:17).

As we mentioned in June, the [Farm Foundation](#) and the [Noble Foundation](#) developed the ‘[Soil Renaissance Strategic Plan](#)’ with input from thought leaders working in production agriculture, agribusiness, the academic community, NGOs, and government agencies. The Soil Renaissance Strategic Plan outlines goals and work plans in four key areas: Measurement, Economics, Research and Education.

President Releases Report on Antibiotic Resistance

On September 18th, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) released a report to the President, [Combating Antibiotic Resistance](#). The report was released simultaneously with a [National Strategy on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria](#) as well as with a [Presidential Executive Order](#), emphasizing to the Nation the importance of addressing this growing challenge.

Funding/Research Opportunities

The USDA requests applications for a rural child poverty nutrition center. The grant will support strategies to reduce child food insecurity in rural communities. The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that up to \$2.5 million is available to establish the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center. This competitive grant is part of USDA's efforts to reduce childhood food insecurity in rural communities in America.

The center will develop, administer, and evaluate a series of sub-grants to improve services in these communities. The center will also organize several conferences to exchange lessons learned and develop a report on best practices. The rural communities will use their funds to target child food insecurity through greater coordination of the nutrition programs. For example, communities could use their funds to identify strategies to increase community involvement or to apply more effective uses of technology and digital media to improve program coordination.

This initiative is part of USDA's commitment to growing economies, increasing investments, and creating opportunities in poverty-stricken rural communities. Through the [USDA StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity](#), USDA has supported partnerships and projects in over 700 persistent poverty counties, parishes, boroughs, Colonias and tribal reservations. The USDA Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center will work cooperatively with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to issue sub-grants targeting persistently poor rural counties in the 15 states with the largest number of persistently-poor counties. This initiative will target all StrikeForce states, as well as Minnesota and Missouri.

Accredited colleges and universities, as well as private and public research institutions are eligible to apply. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will select one institution or organization for the award. A copy of the request and more information has been recently posted on www.grants.gov and www.fns.usda.gov/ops/research-and-analysis.

**The mission of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is to enhance the effectiveness of the food, agricultural, resource, and related economic sectors through a stronger national presence of the agricultural and applied economics profession in the processes of identifying key economic issues, setting priorities, and generating support for research, extension/outreach, and academic programs. www.cfare.org*

Other News



Call for Applications: Competitive Research Grants to Develop Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions

IMMANA (Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions) is a new five-year research initiative funded by the Department of International Development (DFID). The aim of

IMMANA is to develop robust scientific evidence guiding changes in global agriculture to feed the world's population projected to hit nine billion by 2050 in a way that is both healthy and sustainable.

<http://lcirah.ac.uk/immana>

Objective: To accelerate the development of innovative and interdisciplinary methods, metrics and tools to advance scientific understanding of the linkages between agriculture and food systems, and health and nutrition outcomes, to better inform policy and programmatic actions in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

[Download the Call](#)

Funding available: 15–20 research grants of up to £250,000 to be awarded in two rounds.

Who can apply: Researchers and institutions from both developed and low and middle income countries (LMICs).

Deadlines:

November 21, 2014– concepts memos

February 20, 2015– full proposals

IMMANA Fellowships for early career researchers will be launching soon.

The IMMANA collaboration is coordinated by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and includes leading experts from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; SOAS, University of London; and the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University in Boston (USA).



Funded by:



Job Openings

Be sure to visit the [AAEA Job Board](#)! Our new platform allows employers to post open positions on the site and browse the resumes of qualified candidates. Applicants can apply for these positions online and upload their resumes anonymously, protecting their personal information.



Social Media Join the Conversation



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