

# China Section Chair-Elect 2025-2026

## Yu Bai, Minzu University of China



Professor in the School of Economics and the deputy director of the China Institute for Vitalizing Border Areas and Enriching the People (VBEP) at the Minzu University of China.

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Yu Bai achieved Ph.D. at the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2016. His research focuses on rural transformation and development, particularly rural human capital, labor migration, public goods and public services. He specializes in policy and project evaluation through experimental economics. He is dedicated to exploring effective ways to facilitate the development of children in economically disadvantaged areas, aiming to enhance rural regions' development from the source of human capital development. He has published More than 40 papers in top field academic journals, such as Journal of Development Economics, World Development, Demography, Population and Development Review, Economics of Education Review and etc. His research has made policy impacts, including policy briefs adopted by central government of China.

### Personal Statement

My name is Yu Bai, I am applying for the position of Chair-Elect of AAEA's China Section. As you could see from my short bio above, I am confident that my academic and professional experiences fit well with the mission of AAEA's China Section.

I am an active participant of AAEA's China Section. I joined AAEA's China Section in 2016. Since then, I have attended most of the Section's activities. It is worth mentioning that I am serving as the Member at Large of AAEA's China Section during 2024-2025 and participated in the affairs of AAEA's China Section.

With these experiences, I have developed the following strengths: a) Being well aware of the goal and activities of China Section; b) Leaderships, communication, and management skills in large-scale academic conferences to serve the attendees; c) Capacities to improve the impact of academic conference; d) A deep understanding of the needs of Chinese scholars and international hot topics in agricultural economics; e) Maintaining extensive network with outstanding agricultural economists and institutions inside and outside of China to outreach research results. I believe these strengths provide me solid foundations for my future services in China Section.

My goal as the Chair-Elect is facilitating academic cooperation between Chinese and international scholars, increase our section's visibility in the AAEA and other academic associations and organizations, and provide opportunities of enhancing research capacity and getting decent jobs for China Section members. If elected as the Chair-Elect, I will fulfill all tasks assigned to this position without any reservations.