

AAEA News

Thank you

Thank you to those who participated in the 2025 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in Denver, CO! We had a fabulous turn out with more attendees than recent years which lead to interesting discussions and networking opportunities.

Did you know there are events still happening? Please be sure to join some of our [Virtual Track Sessions](#) coming up.

We are looking forward to more inspiring conversation when we meet in [Kansas City, MO in July 2026!](#)



2025 AAEA Annual Award Winners

**Indicates an Honorable Mention*

Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

Chandrakant Agme	University of Arizona
Binayak Kunwar	Purdue University
Armen Khachatryan	Kansas State University
<i>*Kumar Bolakhe</i>	<i>University of Tennessee</i>

Honorable Mention

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

Youngho Kim	University of Maryland
Trinh Pham	Cornell University
Madeline Turland	University of California, Davis
<i>*Jhih-Yun Liu</i>	<i>University of Minnesota</i>

Honorable Mention

Distinguished Teaching Award – 9 or less years –Undergraduate

Misti Sharp	University of Florida
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Distinguished Teaching Award – 10 or more years –Undergraduate

Aleksan Shanoyan	Kansas State University
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Distinguished Teaching Award – 10 or more years –Graduate

Michael Boland	University of Minnesota
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Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award – Less than 10 years experience

Yangxuan Liu	University of Georgia
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Honorable Mention

<i>*Christa Court</i>	<i>University of Florida</i>
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Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award – 10 or more years experience

Michael Langemeier	Purdue University
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Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award – Group

University of Arizona team led by Dr. Frisvold	University of Arizona
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Bruce Gardner Award

Honorable Mention

Matthew P. Rabbitt	USDA–Economic Research Service
<i>*Colin Andre Carter</i>	<i>University of California, Davis</i>
<i>*Carlos Zurita</i>	<i>North Dakota State University</i>
<i>*Yasin Yildirim</i>	<i>North Dakota State University</i>
<i>*Sandro Steinbach</i>	<i>North Dakota State University</i>

Quality of Research Discovery Award	Alex Hollingsworth	The Ohio State University
Quality of Communication Award	Johan Swinnen	International Food Policy Research Institute
	Loraine Ronchi	World Bank Group
	Thomas Reardon	Michigan State University
Publication of Enduring Quality Award	Rick Horan	Michigan State University
	Eli P. Fenichel	Yale University
	Carlos Castillo-Chavez	Arizona State University
	M. G. Ceddia	Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
	Gerardo Chowell	Georgia State University
	Paula A. Gonzalez Parra	Universidad Autónoma de Occidente
	Graham J. Hickling	Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and University of Tennessee–Knoxville
	Garth Holloway	University of Reading
	Benjamin Morin	Vassar College
	Charles Perrings	Arizona State University
	Michael Springborn	University of California, Davis
	Leticia Velazquez	Rice University
	Cristina Villalobos	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
AAEA Mentoring Award	Tom Hertel	Purdue University
Outstanding AJAE Article Award	François Bareille	University of Paris–Saclay, INRAE, AgroParisTech, Paris Saclay Applied Economics, Palaiseau, France. and RFF–CMCC European Institute on Economics and the Environment, Italy
	Raja Chakir	University of Paris–Saclay, INRAE, AgroParisTech, Paris Saclay Applied Economics, Palaiseau, France
Outstanding AJAE Reviewer Award	Lingxiao Wang	Texas A&M University
	Andrew Rosenberg	USDA–Economic Research Service

	Jeffrey Michler	University of Arizona
	K Aleks Schaefer	Oklahoma State University
Outstanding AEPP Article Award	Samuel D. Zapata	Texas A&M University
	Xavier Villavicencio	Texas A&M University
	Anderson Xicay	Texas A&M University
<i>Honorable Mention</i>	<i>*Jennifer Ifft</i>	<i>Kansas State University</i>
	<i>*Todd H. Kuethe</i>	<i>Argus Media</i>
	<i>*Gregory Lyons</i>	<i>Purdue University</i>
	<i>*Alexander Schultz</i>	<i>George Washington University</i>
	<i>*John Y. Zhu</i>	<i>University of Kansas</i>
Outstanding Choices Article Award	Wen Liu,	University of Florida
	Gulcan Onel	University of Florida
	Pilar Useche	University of Florida
<i>Honorable Mention</i>	<i>*Stephen Devadoss</i>	<i>Texas Tech University</i>
	<i>*William Hall</i>	
	<i>*Jeff Luckstead</i>	<i>Washington State University</i>
Outstanding AETR Article Award	Anukul Bhattari	
	George C. Davis	Virginia Tech
<i>Honorable Mention</i>	<i>*Chanden Westover</i>	<i>Utah State University</i>
	<i>*Tanner McCarty</i>	<i>Utah State University</i>

Virtual Track Sessions

AAEA will be hosting a few Track Sessions virtually either before or after the annual meeting. Please visit the [Virtual Track Sessions](#) page on the AAEA website for more details.

Past Recorded Sessions

- [Applying AI in the Classroom \(8/1 – Passed\)](#)
Available on the AAEA YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/fJxZfZSuyno>
- [Economic and Sustainability Dimensions of Global Agri-Food Value Chains: Insights and Innovations \(6/27 – Passed\)](#)
Available on the AAEA YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5Exb3p3tow>
- [Improving Sustainable Agriculture and Ecosystem Management in Developing Countries \(7/11 – Passed\)](#)
Available on the AAEA YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/WcPvpHodOQo>
- [Increasing Improved Seed Adoption in the Global South \(7/11 – Passed\)](#)
Available on the AAEA YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/zhyjVeGpL54>
- [Innovations and Economics of Specialty Crop Production: From Farm to Market \(7/24 – Passed\)](#)
Available on the AAEA YouTube Channel: https://youtu.be/Lh25_xKFYZA

Upcoming Sessions

- [Perspectives of Agricultural Development in Latin America](#) (8/19)
 - [Writing and using Teaching Case Studies](#) 8/20
 - [Implications of climate change in smallholder agricultural systems: Adaptation, mitigation, and impacts on rural livelihoods](#) (8/22)
 - [Exploring the Future of Florida Citrus: Assessing the Viability of OTC as a Solution](#) (8/28)
 - [Building Analytical and Global Competencies through a Multicultural Experiential Learning Program in Puerto Rico](#) (Date Coming Soon)
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Call for Applications: AAEA/AARES Heading South Award

AARES–AAEA Young Professionals Exchange Programme

We are pleased to announce that applications are open for the joint AARES and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Trust travel award. This award will support one AAEA or AARES member, normally residing in North America, in attending the AARES Annual Conference in February 2026.

AARES will provide a grant of US\$1,500 to substantially cover the costs of conference registration, attendance at the Conference Dinner and other social events, and accommodation for the duration of the conference. Additionally, AAEA will provide a further grant of US\$1,500 to substantially meet the costs of a return economy class airfare to the conference.

The purpose of this award is to offer early-career agricultural and resource economists with an opportunity for professional and personal development, and international professional and cultural exchange. We encourage members to apply for this opportunity to participate in this enriching professional event.

Applicants should submit:

a paper for presentation at the AARES conference, for which applicants are sole or first author and which represent their original and unpublished work;

a one-page biographical statement; and

a one-page statement in support of their application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish through the award, why they would be deserving of the award, and confirming that they would be unable to attend the conference without this financial support.

Due by: Entries are to be submitted electronically to office@aares.org.au and must be received by **August 30, 2025**. For more information, please visit: <https://www.aares.org.au/awards/heading-south-award/>

Choices Magazine: Article(s) Highlight

[The Unseen Workforce: How Immigration Enforcement Could Shake the U.S. Economy](#)

Alejandro Gutiérrez-Li

Mass deportations affecting U.S. industries reliant on undocumented labor have economic implications. Heightened immigration enforcement could exacerbate labor shortages, disrupt key sectors, and strain the U.S. workforce, with significant consequences for both workers and employers.

Interested in publishing in Choices? Submit your Individual, Theme, or Data Visualizations [here](#).

Obituary

Uma Lele

1941-2025

Source: [IAAE Website](#)

On 28 July 2025, we lost a pioneer, mentor, colleague, and friend. Uma Lele was a legend – a brilliant researcher and an influential leader in the world of Agricultural and Development Economics. Her outstanding body of research advanced our understanding of the complex interactions among agricultural policy, agricultural growth, equity, environment, and gender, and how they collectively shape patterns of development. Uma has also made important contributions in understanding the roles of international finance, multilateral organizations, and policy advice in the processes of growth and distribution in developing countries –particularly in Africa and Asia. With her insights on rural development issues in the Global South, she is widely regarded as an authority on the subject. Beyond her enormous scholarly contributions, she was a visionary, a mentor, and a builder of institutional and individual capacity.



Born and brought up in Maharashtra, India, Uma charted an extraordinary path to become a global leader in the field. She was the first woman to be awarded a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, achieving this distinction at the young age of 24. She joined the World Bank in 1971, and had an illustrious career at the Bank, in academia, and international organizations. She made history as the first woman to be elected President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) in 2018 and served as president of IAAE from 2021–2024. Uma Lele was also recognized as Fellow of the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), and received numerous other prestigious awards, including the B.P. Pal Award (2015–2017), the M.S. Swaminathan Award (2017), the Clifton Wharton Award (2018), and an honorary doctorate from Stellenbosch University (2023). Uma loved India and played an instrumental role in bringing the International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) to India in 2024.

Her contribution to economics has been exceptional, and opened new paths of research. She has authored about 18 books and 130 research articles. Uma was known for her strong voice and courage to express her

views even when they challenged prevailing thinking. Her early work on agricultural market behavior in South Asia was published as *Food Grain Marketing in India: Private Performance and Public Policy*. Her landmark study on evaluation of rural development programs in Africa culminated in her best-selling book *The Design of Rural Development: Lessons From Africa*, which significantly shaped debates on these issues at the World Bank, and led to important shifts in the Bank policy towards making such programs effective. Her work on the effectiveness of aid resulted in two influential books including *Aid to African Agriculture: Lessons of Two Decades of Donor Experience* published by Johns Hopkins University in 1992.

Uma Lele's empirical analyses informed the World Bank's Forest Strategy (2002) and strengthened CGIAR's approach to agricultural research and food security. Her recommendation to replace banning of logging with incentives of payment of environmental services was successfully implemented in China. In her most recent book *Food For All* she examined the role of five international organizations – WB/IDA, FAO, WFP, CGIAR, and IFAD – on agricultural transformation across 130 countries. She concluded that there continues to be huge under-investment in agriculture and rural development in low- and middle-income countries. In 2020, she wrote an article on COVID-19 challenges faced by the Indian labor force. A hallmark of her research work in Africa and other places have been in-depth case studies demonstrating how high-quality research is possible even in data-constrained environments.

Uma was a passionate advocate for women's empowerment. She established an award for the Best Research on Gender in Agriculture at IAAE in 2011, launched the Uma Lele Mentorship Program to support students from developing countries at the AAEA in 2013. In 2018, she founded the International Committee of Women in Agricultural Economics (ICWAE) with a mission to provide mentorship and career advancement support for women in the profession. As a part of this effort she mobilized a grant from the Gates Foundation for mentoring women agricultural economists from the Global South. Uma initiated studies documenting the status of women in the agricultural economics profession in several developing countries. Three such studies from India, China, and Kenya were published in the flagship journal of the IAAE, *Agricultural Economics*. She was a tireless advocate for more effective public, social, and policy support for women in development everywhere. She mentored and inspired countless women, creating opportunities for them to grow, lead, and thrive.

Uma was a trailblazer who shattered many glass ceilings. Yet, she was warm and accessible to all. Her passing is a real loss for the IAAE and the profession. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her son Abhijeet and members of her family. Her legacy lives on through the many lives she touched, the knowledge she generated, and the institutions she helped shape. From all of us the world over who were fortunate enough to know and work with her, a heartfelt thank you, Uma. May her visionary contributions and generosity to the profession, as well as her steadfast dedication to improving the opportunities of women everywhere, continue to inspire generations to come!

Other News

Call for Papers

Risk and Risk Management in the Agricultural Economy

November 21, 2025 — Cambridge, MA

To promote research on the risks that are borne by individuals and firms in the agricultural sector, and on the tools that are available to manage these risks, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), with the support of the Economic Research Service at the US Department of Agriculture, will convene a research conference in Cambridge, MA on Friday, November 21, 2025. The conference will be organized by Barry Goodwin (North Carolina State University) and Tatyana Deryugina (University of Illinois and NBER).

The organizers will consider submissions of complete, or nearly complete, papers that will be ready to present by November 2025. They welcome empirical and theoretical research, as well as papers by scholars who are early in their careers and who are not NBER affiliates. If any members of the research team have ties to the agricultural industry or other potential conflicts of interest, those ties should be disclosed on the first page of the submission. The program will prioritize research on the US food and farm economy.

To be considered for inclusion on the program, papers must be uploaded by midnight (EDT) on Tuesday, **August 12, 2025** via the following link:

<https://conference.nber.org/confs submit/backend/cfp?id=AEf25>

Please feel free to share this call for papers widely with any researchers who might be working on projects that are suitable for presentation.

Please do not submit papers that have been accepted for publication and will be published by November 2025, and be aware that NBER papers may not make policy recommendations or offer normative judgements on policy. Authors chosen to present papers will be notified in early September. The NBER will cover hotel and economy-class conference travel for up to two authors per paper. Questions about this conference may be addressed to confer@nber.org.

Member Benefits

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- [Mentoring](#)
- [AJAE Advance Access](#)
- [AEPP Advance Access](#)
- [Applied Economic Teaching Resources](#)
- [JAAEA Open Access Journal](#)

The Exchange

published biweekly by the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

Submissions to *The Exchange*:

email: aware@aaea.org

or

info@aaea.org

www.aaea.org



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Open Jobs

- [Research Fellow \(One Basin CRC\)](#)
Charles Sturt University (Posted: 07/31/2025)
- [Postdoctoral Associate – Land Use Value Program](#)
Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics (Posted: 07/27/2025)
- [Beginning career non-tenure track \(assistant professor\) faculty member with general agriculture economics interests and expertise in agricultural processing](#)
Iowa State University (Posted: 07/27/2025)
- [Beginning career non-tenure track \(assistant professor\) faculty member with general agriculture economics interests and expertise in energy and water](#)
Iowa State University (Posted: 08/05/2025)

*View Job Openings on the
AAFA Job Board*

Working with the Media

What research are you working on? Want to be an expert source for journalists working on a story?

Contact Allison Ware at AWare@aaea.org

[View all Press Releases HERE](#)

Member in the News

Do you know an AAEA Member who has made statewide, national, or international news? Fill out [this online form](#) or send a link of the article to Austin Sparbel at asparbel@aaea.org or info@aaea.org.

[View other Members in the News HERE](#)

Anti-Harassment and Code of Conduct Policy

AAEA is committed to the fair, ethical treatment of all of its members and all other individuals participating in AAEA activities or activities connected with, or related to, AAEA activities, while providing an atmosphere that promotes a variety of research, teaching and extension/outreach activities.

AAEA has zero tolerance for, and prohibits any type of, discrimination or harassment, including sexual harassment, either within the organization, at professional meetings, in the field, or anywhere professional activities are conducted under the aegis of the AAEA.

View the [policy](#) here.