



Amy W. Ando is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She earned a BA in economics from Williams College in 1990 and a PhD in economics from MIT in 1996. Before joining UIUC she worked as a Fellow at the Washington DC think-tank Resources for the Future. Ando is currently serving as one of the four Co-Editors of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and as Chair of the AAEA

Publications Committee. She has also served AAEA in other ways, including early career mentoring and the Quality of Research Discovery Award committee. Ando has been an invited contributor at policy-relevant workshops on ecosystem service economics at the USDA and USEPA. Her research has been funded by sources like the USDA-NIFA, NSF, and EPA, and has been published in journals ranging from the *AJAE* and *JEEM* to *Science* and *PNAS*.

In addition to the bio and photo, please answer the following three questions regarding AAEA.

1. What is the biggest concern/problem facing AAEA?

The AAEA and the profession it supports has challenges in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Women and men of color are underrepresented as students and professionals in our association. Moreover, our research and outreach often overlooks questions that are of pressing concern to marginalized people.

2. What actions would you initiate to improve the situation described in your response to the previous question?

As a member of the AAEA Board, I would work to initiate three efforts to improve DEI in our profession – not just in the demographics of our members, but in the work we carry out. One effort would identify best practices for DEI in applied economics departments so our academic leaders have a toolkit readily available to make meaningful improvements in DEI in their units. A second effort would support research symposiums and community-building events to jump-start and sustain research on issues of discrimination and disparity in food and environmental systems. The third effort would initiate an ongoing critical conversation to identify and reach out to groups in the public who should be able to view themselves as stakeholders in the work of the AAEA, but have been disconnected from and unsupported by our work.

3. At the end of your three-year term, what changes/new initiatives would you have helped create?

At the end of my three-year term, the AAEA would be on a path to several dimensions of real improvement in DEI. New strains of research about equity in our subject domains will have been durably launched. We will have begun to forge relationships with new stakeholders

representing parts of industry and the public who face compelling challenges our work can help to solve. Leaders of academic departments will have concrete tools in hand to improve diversity and equity in their units. We will be on a path to having more diverse people trained and recruited into the profession – in part by researching and teaching a broader portfolio of issues that are of concern to more inclusive set of people.