

IAAE Inter-Conference Symposium

Agricultural Productivity, Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Management

October 17-19, 2017

University of Talca, Chile

Travel report, by Roux Nicolas, Graduate school of Arts and Sciences, Department of multidisciplinary sciences, GPES, Master 2

Conference organizer: The International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)

“The International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) is a worldwide confederation of agricultural economists and others concerned with agricultural economic problems, including problems related to the use of renewable resources and the environment. Its broad goal is to make a difference through:

- Fostering the application of agricultural economics to improve rural economic and social conditions.
- Advancing knowledge of agriculture's economic organization.
- Facilitating communication and information exchange among those concerned with rural welfare.” (<http://www.iaae-agecon.org/>)

The IAAE is as well publishing the *Agricultural Economics* journal, which is among the most impactful journals in the corresponding academic field.

About the Conference

The IAAE 5th interconference symposium, hosted by the University of Talca in Chile, was aiming to depict the linkage between agricultural productivity and the environment, including climate change and natural resources management strategies. Covered topics ranged from *Farm size and productivity* to *Policy options to stimulate sustainable agricultural production*, presented by a great variety of speakers coming from all over the world. Major leaders in the field of agricultural productivity were invited to talk in plenary sessions, including the following:

- **Julian Alston**
U. California Davis, USA

- **Lilyan Fulginiti**
U. Nebraska-Lincoln, USA
- **Pedro Martel**
IDB, Washington D.C., USA
- **Chris O'Donnell**
U. Queensland, Australia
- **Samuel Ortega-Farías**
U. Talca, Chile
- **B.E. Bravo-Ureta**
U. Connecticut, USA

Overview of the presentations

On October 16th, I first had the chance to take part to the Pre-conference on Productivity, sustainability and public policies. There, previously mentioned guests were discussing with public policy bodies representatives as Pr. Sun Ling Wang, from the US Department of Agriculture, who explained the productivity and sources of growth in the US.

The following three days, I could listen to very interesting presentations about the adoption of biotechnologies, agriculture productivity and climate change, or impact assessments of agricultural projects, etc.

Along these talks, I could first improve my understanding of analytical methods to measure agricultural productivity. Especially, I learned through Pr. O'Donnell's presentation about productivity measurement how indices widely used to aggregate agricultural inputs or outputs values were in fact unwarranted and had to be replaced by so called "proper indices" satisfying a set of basic properties.

In addition, I could as well broaden my qualitative understanding of the linkage between farm productivity and environmental impacts. Among all the very interesting applications on the subject, I would like to stretch out a study by Mr. Dakpo (INRA, France) which I found very valuable, proving that the EU's agriculture subsidies, known as degrading the productivity of European farms, were actually improving productivity when environmental features were included in the analysis.

I finally had the opportunity to present my paper "Are environmentally friendly farmers more, or less affected by international trade liberalization" during the session on Trade and Prices. I then obtained very insightful feedbacks from Pr. Wang (USDA) and other researchers.

Conclusion and acknowledgement

What I have learned during this conference greatly helped me improve my current research and provided a lot of ideas to enhance further studies on agricultural productivity and the environment. Therefore, I would like to sincerely thank the department of Multidisciplinary Sciences from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo for their financial support.