

A Word from the President

Dear colleagues,

Our annual conference in February is proving to be another great AARES event. A lot of effort goes into its creation, much of it is volunteer time put on our behalf by our Local Organising Committee and others who work with them. Without voluntary contributions, we may not be what we are. Thanks for the spirit of collaboration.

As a professional Society, we reflect the diversity, plurality, and uniqueness of our members, their experiences, and perspectives. The interactions and relationships that we promote shape our own behaviours and our collective identity. As we navigate our own research issues that investigate the context in which social problems arise, conflicts that result, and challenges that require collective action and cooperation to address, we bring in our own perspectives and experience to play. As your president, I have immensely enjoyed learning from those experiences and playing a role in overcoming challenges. While, as economists, we pay a large emphasis on efficiency, equity and resilience are essential elements in preserving the purpose of us playing a role in this Society.

Mersine, our friendly office manager, and I had a closer look at our membership database. We are strong—with 564 members and growing. One of the areas of growth has an international flavour and it reflects our identity, 'Australasian'. I want to thank Ross Cullen and Quentin Grafton in steering the change during their respective roles as President. The strategic focus that Presidents bring, along with our councillors, make our society dynamic and resilient.

As our Foundation President, Keith O. Campbell notes, the formation of our Society had its external impetus from the foundational Secretary of the International

Conference (now Association) of Agricultural Economists, J.R. (Jock) Currie. Our society has always had a huge influence internationally and we have a great opportunity to build that influence.

As we explore issues of grand challenges at the AARES 2024 conference, much of the issues we confront as economists is now linked to how we value our resources and the environment which provides the very basis for economic growth. Our diversity—in both geographical and knowledge system perspectives—is a rare complement that we as AARES can treasure and build upon to serve the needs of our wider society we serve through AARES.

I look forward to meeting as many of you in Canberra in February and continue this conversation. Until then, enjoy finishing up your work in readiness to have fun with your families over the holiday season.

Thilak Mallawaarachchi

AARES President

Branch	Members
Australian Capital Territory	54
New South Wales	54
New England	28
South Australia	40
Victoria	56
Western Australia	52
Queensland	63
Tasmania	7
New Zealand	88
East Asia	17
North America	38
Other Overseas	67
Total	564

2024 Conference Update

Registrations are open for AARES 2024 6-9 February 2024

To register for the conference, you must be an AARES member. You can renew your membership at the same time as registering for the conference.

Early bird registration rates are available until **31 December 2023**.

Presenters of accepted papers and/or posters must be registered for the 2024 AARES Conference by **22 December 2023**. Presenters who miss this deadline will be withdrawn from the program.

[Register today!](#)

In Celebration



Dr Abbie Rogers, Co-Director of the University of Western Australia's Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy, has been awarded a Western Australia Premier's Early-to-Mid-Career Fellowship. The Fellowship will build on research related to Coastal Resilience enabling academic innovation and capacity building with coastal stakeholders and the wider community.

Congratulations, Abbie!

[Read the news release here.](#)

AJARE Update

Together with my co-editors, Johannes Sauer and Eric Sheng Yu, I have been settling into my new role at AJARE. We are consulting with AARES, Wiley, and our editorial board on the strategy for the journal and plan to announce some initiatives in the new year. If you have ideas for the journal that you'd like to share, please write to me. I will also be holding a "meet the editors" session at the AARES 2024 Conference. I look forward to meeting you there.

The final issue for 2023 (Volume 67 Issue 4) has now been published, which is the last issue edited by the outgoing editor team of Tiho Ancev, Mara Thiene, and Shyamal Chowdhury. We thank them for their work for the journal and their help in smoothly transitioning to the new team.

The journal's two-year impact factor increased to 3.2 in 2022, which maintained its ranking relative to competitors, while 57% of articles published in 2022 and 2023 were open-access. The journal currently accepts about 12% of submissions.

David Stern

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Upcoming Opportunities

**Job Opening:
CSIRO Winanga-y Postdoctoral Fellowship in the True**

Cost of Food

A 3 year postdoc is available at CSIRO Agriculture and Food.

The impact of many direct and indirect costs of our food system is externalised (i.e., not reflected in market prices), such as food waste, biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions, insufficient animal and human welfare, antimicrobial resistance, zoonoses or malnutrition due to unhealthy diets.

What is the true cost of the Australian diet, when we account for these externalities?

The CERC Fellow will integrate Australian and international expertise, tools, and data, and refine True Cost Accounting methodologies, to identify and estimate the true cost of externalities in the Australian food system, and to identify gaps and priorities for further research.

[Job posting.](#)

Applications are due 12 December.

International Conferences: CCAP

The China Centre for Agricultural Policy (CCAP) at Peking University is privileged to host an international conference in Beijing from **6th to 8th December 2023**. The Conference, entitled “Understanding the Drivers of Successful and Inclusive Rural Regional Transformation”, will be held for two days.

The first day of the conference will be open to the public. The conference will discuss rural transformation and policies in Asian developing countries. By making efforts to enable dialogue and collaborative work among international organization leaders, experts, and policymakers, the conference will also undoubtedly foster international networking, collaboration, and forming participant partnerships in the future and provide a more reliable scientific basis for policymakers in countries undergoing rural transformation. The second day of conference will be a closed door meeting. It will present a series of outputs from the ACIAR project and seek to leverage the project to enhance the capacities of facilitating rural transformation of partner countries.

成功和全面的农村转型的驱动因素
**Understanding the Drivers of Successful and
Inclusive Rural Regional Transformation**

北京国际会议
International Conference, Beijing

December 6-8th, 2023
2023年12月6日-2023年12月8日

CHINA CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL POLICY, PKU
北京大学中国农业政策研究中心

&

CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, ANU
澳大利亚国立大学克劳福德公共政策学院

Location: Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center, Peking University



北京大学
PEKING UNIVERSITY

现代农学院

SCHOOL OF ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

International Conferences:

GTAP

Abstract submissions are open for the 27th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis, to be held at Colorado State University June 5-7, 2024.

The goal of the conference is to promote the exchange of ideas among economists conducting quantitative analysis of global economic issues. Particular emphasis will be placed on applied general equilibrium methods, data, and application. Related theoretical and applied work is also welcome.

[More details can be found here.](#)

Submissions are due 15 January.

Snapshots of AARES History

Do you have historic AARES photos to share?

David Pannell is seeking photos that represent AARES over the decades. If you have iconic photos from past conferences, or involving other significant events and people, please send these through directly to [David](#). Photos dating back to pre-2010 events would be especially appreciated.

Branch Updates

WA AARES Annual Branch Conference

The Western Australia branch hosted our annual conference on September 5. Dr. Bethany Cooper delivered a keynote presentation on how economists can help decision-makers respond to the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance. She also offered advice to early-career researchers by reflecting on her academic journey.

Presentations by early-career researchers reflected the diversity of issues tackled by our society, including rice production in Vietnam, marine planning and sanctuary zones, the threat of climate change to food security in Bangladesh, polarised public opinions of energy projects, and the economic viability of Tropical Rock Oyster

farming in Western Australia. We hope these presenters will also appear at the national conference in Canberra.

Since 2020, this conference has been planned and run by early-career researchers. A special thanks to Emanuel Gomez and Yanyan Dong for organising a great event this year.



Curtis Rollins

WA Branch President

East Asian Branch Future Agriculture Lecture Series

The East Asian Branch organized a series of lectures jointly with China Centre for Agricultural Policy (CCAP) in Peking University. Invited speakers including Scott Rozelle, the Helen F. Farnsworth Senior Fellow and the co-director of the Rural Education Action Program in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and Johan Swinnen, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and managing director of Systems Transformation

at CGIAR.

Dr. Rozelle delivered a thought-provoking lecture, titled: “ECD around the World: Lessons for rural China”. He discussed the challenges faced by early childhood development in rural China and analyzed the response measures and future prospects taken by China in early childhood development.

Nearly 2000 teachers and students participated in the lectures either offline or online.



Yu Sheng

East Asian Branch President & Councillor

Reflections on the Crawford Fund Conference

Participating in the Crawford Fund conference profoundly impacted my perspective on global food security and solidified my commitment to making a meaningful contribution in this field. As a conference scholar, engaging in discussions with fellow scholars, mentors, and researchers enriched my understanding and

motivation.

One of the most compelling and vital takeaways from the conference was the realisation of the intricate interconnectedness within the agricultural system and its indispensable role in addressing global food security. Conference speakers, chairs and moderators highlighted some challenges that needed to be addressed.



Beginning with farmers, they face significant on-farm risks, prompting the need for diversification and resilience, as emphasised by Professor Wendy Umberger. Challenges encompass financial constraints, market unpredictability, skill gaps, efficient resource usage, compliance issues, sustainable infrastructure, technology, climate change, and gender disparities.

Agricultural economists can provide support by tailoring financial solutions, advocating for subsidies, managing market volatility, and promoting diversified revenue streams. This also includes designing training programs to address specialized skills and aligning with government research initiatives. Furthermore, driving policy implementation for infrastructural aspects like water and land management is crucial, along with supporting farmers with legal compliance.



Acknowledging the involvement of various stakeholders, including governments, organisations, and private enterprises, is critical. Forming effective public-private partnerships can streamline efforts, leverage resources, and enhance the efficiency of initiatives to improve food security.

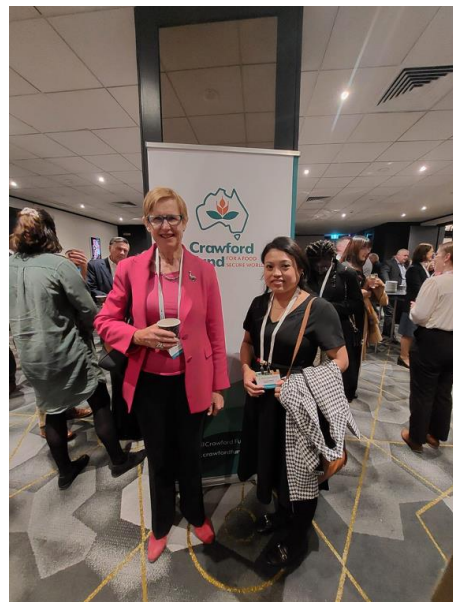
Dr. Cary Fowler, keynote speaker stressed the significance of indigenous and underused or under realised crops, cropping systems based on nutrition and resilience for tackling nutrition and climate challenges. He emphasised the need for a comprehensive trust fund to

support sustained research and development in addressing climate impact. This offers agricultural economists an important role in quantifying these crops' economic and nutritional benefits, addressing mainstreaming challenges, and formulating policies to boost their production and consumption.

Adapting new technologies and production systems could also be a better way to deal with climate change and improve food security. For example, insect farming creates value for food loss and waste and the use of bio-fertiliser. But we need to think about how these technologies will affect the economy, society, and environment.

For a research scientist like me, the conference stressed my immense responsibility in researching and finding innovative solutions to address global food security. It encouraged a broader perspective, urging to focus on specific research areas and collaborate and engage with other stakeholders in the agricultural system. It instilled a sense of urgency and commitment to contribute to sustainable solutions safeguarding food security for present and future generations.

I express my heartfelt thanks to my mentor, Dr. Wendy Craik, a Crawford Fund Board Member, for her consistent support throughout the three-day program. Her guidance and connections with conference speakers, academics, and prominent researchers have been invaluable. Additionally, I am grateful to AARES for enabling my attendance at the Crawford Fund Annual Conference 2023 as a Scholar. This significant professional growth opportunity would not have been possible without their support.



Bisakha Dewan

Ph.D Candidate

School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability

University of Queensland