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# COSBAE VOICES

A Newsletter of the Committee on the Opportunities & Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics

*COSBAE is a Section of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*

Volume 5 Issue 1

July 2013



Carlisle Pemberton, Chair

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## Editor's Note



Blondel Brinkman, Editor

I am looking forward to the 2013-2014 year as a member of COSBAE and

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## Message From The Chair

### Carlisle Pemberton

### Moving COSBAE Forward - A Few Thoughts from the Chair

According to the AAEA website, "COSBAE, the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) was established in 1980 for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Black agricultural economists by representing their interests and by engaging in activities that encourage their professional advancement." It seems clear that COSBAE has met with some success in its objectives by holding its own sessions and thus encouraging wider participation of its membership at the annual meetings of the AAEA.

However, COSBAE needs to do more to enhance the status of its traditional target group. For example, there ought to be maintained, a register of all potential members of COSBAE (including students) and they should be encouraged to join the Association and this Section. There could also be a regular link with this wider grouping, via the modern communication technology including the social media. COSBAE should also consider holding other sessions within the year, to stimulate papers and collaborative research among its members. In addition, one area that we have already agreed to venture into is to have more Invited Paper Sessions by the membership, in the Annual meetings, and the

sharing of information on member publications.

However, now is perhaps also the time for COSBAE to move on. And the issue is where to? Now the AAEA has a wide range of Sections and as COSBAE may look to expand its focus, recognition must be paid to this reality. In particular, the AAEA in adopting its new name (Agricultural and Applied Economics Association) has widened its appeal and focus internationally. However there is already an International Section. However, the objectives of this International Section still leave a lot of room for further international effort. So

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## Message From The Chair

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specifically, according to the AAEA website:

“The International Section of the AAEA develops activities and programs that educate and inform AAEA members about the expanding and intertwining nature of global economics as it relates to food, natural resources, agriculture trade and development, policies, and politics.”

This somewhat narrow focus leaves room for COSBAE to take on the role of developing the capacity and opportunities of its target group in countries worldwide. This can be achieved by linkages with agricultural economists and their

societies in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America and elsewhere, so that COSBAE would be raising the status of its target group, not only in North America, but throughout the world. So for example, what opportunities exist for raising the status of agricultural economics in Haiti or Tanzania or Panama or Jamaica? How can we make use of these opportunities?

One example of linkages with societies that may be possible is the case of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society. This Society linked with the AAEA in 1993 at the Annual Meeting that was held in Orlando, Florida. This Society hosts the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conferences, and the 30th such Conference was held in

Trinidad and Tobago in July of this year. COSBAE could develop links with such societies in target countries to hold joint meetings, seminars etc. The mechanism of the AAEA Symposium is available to assist in such efforts.

So exciting times may lie ahead for COSBAE and it is my hope that the younger members of this Section will rally to take COSBAE to greater heights.

<http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections>

<http://www.aaea.org/meetings>

## Editor's Note

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the editor of COSBAE Voices. We have several tasks at hand as we strive to continue to promote COABAE and keep the organization relevant. I echo the same sentiments of the Chair Pemberton, we have to constantly explore opportunities to remain relevant and expand our membership. We have to develop creative ways to attract young professionals to COSBAE. Presently, we have members that range from Millennials to Baby Boomers. We can embrace this diversity and use it as an advantage to appeal to potential members of our organization.

This can certainly contribute to increase COSBAE's prominence in the AAEA and in the field of Agricultural Economics. I am looking forward to our interaction in Washington, DC as we have many interesting sessions planned. I will be soliciting articles for the newsletter from my fellow members. Our publication is now once per year.

Thanks to my employer, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, we are now able to publish COSBAE Voices. Thanks to the previous editor Gerald Nyambane for providing a template and assisting me with

the current publication. Gerald's predecessors also had significant input in the newsletter and we are very grateful.

I must again acknowledge my employer, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Riverdale Maryland for allowing me to use its resources to work on COSBAE VOICES.

Thank you!  
Dr. Blondel Brinkman

# Job Vacancies

## International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Research Coordinator (#13-163)

Monica Dourado  
(202) 862-5600  
m.dourado@cgiar.org

**Position Description:** The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks a qualified candidate to fill the position of Research Coordinator for the Markets, Trade and Institutions Division for a two-year, fixed-term, appointment. Under the supervision of Division Director and working in close collaboration with Senior Research Fellows, the Research Coordinator will coordinate value chain projects under the Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) Program. This position based at IFPRI headquarters in Washington, DC.

### Essential Duties:

Coordinate A4NH value chain research activities with other CGIAR centers, private sector partners and civil society.

Design and evaluate gender components of A4NH value chain research. Assist in building networks and capacity development for A4NH value chain research

Work with A4NH program to ensure that MTID value chain activities are aligned with A4NH priorities and goals

Writes and edits reports, papers, policy briefs, and journal articles.

Design presentation and outreach materials.

**Required Qualifications:** PhD in Economics Agricultural Economics, International Development, International Relations with a minimum of 3-5 years of relevant work experience ; or Masters degree in Economics Agricultural Economics, International Development, International Relations, or related field, with 4 years of relevant work experience.

Experience in developing training materials on the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data and statistics

Demonstrated ability to synthesize results from social science research for the development community, including policy makers, policy advisers, and researchers

Excellent computer skills

Ability to interact and communicate with diverse audiences

Attention to detail

Ability and willingness to travel nationally and internationally as necessary

### Preferred Qualifications:

Experience with multilateral organizations in collecting gender-disaggregated agricultural statistics

Proficiency in a second language of the U.N. system.

**TO APPLY:** Go to [www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org) . Click on "Careers" and "Research" to link you to Position # 13- 163– Research Coordinator, MTID. Please complete on-line application, including a complete curriculum vitae and a detailed letter of interest. Also complete section providing 3 references. For more information on IFPRI, please visit our website at [www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org).

EOE recognized research group in the development of climate models and/or applications with the aim of better understanding the physical processes and feedbacks in the climate system. The successful candidate will also show promise of excellence in teaching and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students. Applicants are expected to have a Ph.D. degree in a related field by start of appointment. We are particularly interested in candidates excited to pursue interdisciplinary collaborations through the PCCRC. Established in 2004, the PCCRC is a collaborative, faculty-led center that brings together natural scientists, social scientists, and engineers in an integrative setting. Center faculty have a broad range of research interests that span spatial and temporal scales. The PCCRC is also engaged in ongoing efforts to bring climate science information to public and private decision makers, and opportunities exist for the successful candidate to participate in the center's many forms of formal and informal educational activities.

## American University

### Contact

Search Committee  
(202) 885-3770  
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### Position Description

One tenure-line opening beginning August 2014 in environmental economics at the associate or full professor level (with tenure likely at hiring). Candidates should have ongoing external funding, interest in policy-relevant research, strong quantitative skills, excellent teaching credentials, and the ability to supervise doctoral dissertations. The appointee will take a leading role in a campus-wide environmental studies initiative. Applications must include a cover letter or statement, curriculum vitae, sample research paper, and letters from three references and preferably should be sent to [www.EconJobMarket.org](http://www.EconJobMarket.org), or else mailed to Search Committee, Department of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016-8029. Consideration of applications will continue until the position is filled, but complete applications received by November 30, 2013 will receive priority for phone interviews. American University is an AA/EEEE institution, committed to a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, see <http://www.american.edu/hr/Ft-Faculty.cfm> or write to [econ@american.edu](mailto:econ@american.edu).

## Announcements:

**COSBAE VOICES is sending out a call for articles for its 2014 Summer issue. The deadline for submitting articles to the editor is May 31, 2014. Please mark your calendars.**

## We're on the Web

<http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/cosbae/>



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## About Our Organization...

COSBAE's mission is to encourage and promote the interests of black agricultural economics professionals within the AAEA structure and the broader agricultural community. Recognizing the importance of shared knowledge among all colleagues, COSBAE membership is open to all interested parties. Membership is \$10 per year. To join, please contact the AAEA office at [www.aaea.org](http://www.aaea.org).

## Meet the Members



Awudu Abdulai, is a Professor of Food Economics and Food Policy, and Head of Department of Food Economics and Consumption Studies at the University of Kiel, Germany. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Kiel in 2004, he taught at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH-Zurich) and also held visiting positions at the Departments of Economics at Yale University and Iowa State University, as well International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC. He spent 2010-2011 as Cargill Visiting Professor at the Center for Food Security and the Environment at Stanford University.

Awudu has taught courses in economic development, global food security, industrial organization, consumer behavior and applied econometrics. His research focuses on the impact of new agricultural technologies on household welfare, effects of land tenure arrangements on investment in soil and productivity-enhancing measures, as well as food security policies in developing countries. He has co-authored several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Some of his recent publications include Abdulai, A., V. Owusu and R. Goetz (2011). Land Tenure Arrangements and Investment in Land Improvement Measures: Theoretical and Empirical Analysis. *Journal of Development Economics*, 96(1): 66-78, and Kuhlitz, C. and A. Abdulai (2012). Food Aid and Malnutrition in Developing Countries: Evidence from Global Food Aid Allocation. *Journal of Development Studies* Vol. 48(12), pp. 1765-1783. His most recent work investigates the effects of time-related characteristics of tenancy contracts on investment in soil conservation practices. Other more recent work include impacts of policy reforms on the nature and speed of transmission of

## Executive Committee

### Contact Information

**Chair (2012-2013)**  
**Dr. Carlisle Pemberton**  
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**Chair (2012-2014)**  
**Dr. Ron Rainey**  
Phone: 501-671-2175  
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**Chair Elect (2013-2014)**  
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**Secretary/Treasurer (2012-2015)**  
**Dr. Erika Styles**  
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## Meet the Members Cont'd

world prices to domestic prices in developing countries, how international trade affects poverty and food security in developing countries, and consumers preferences and willingness-to-pay for organic food products.

Awudu obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics in 1994 from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. His dissertation won the Faculty outstanding PhD Dissertation Award. He also received an MSc in Agricultural Economics from the ETH-Zurich in 1990, and a BSc in Agriculture from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana in 1983.

Awudu is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Agricultural Economics* (Journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists). He is also an Associate Editor of *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Food Policy*.