

Brief report of the 9th EAAE PhD Workshop held in June 22-24 2022 at Parma, Italy,

Dear Madam/Sir

Summary

I wish to use this opportunity to first of all extend my profound gratitude to you, the Agricultural Economics Society once more for availing me of the opportunity to take part in one of the most prestigious gatherings of Ph.D. scholars in the world. It was a great experience coming from Africa and I have learned a lot and have also been exposed to advance interaction among agricultural economists. It was an opportunity to see colleagues from Europe and interact with them formally and informally. I was also able to make academic networks and contacts which I believe will be of enormous help in my academic career. It was also an opportunity to visit the continent for the first time, as I took the opportunity to visit historical and Romanesque buildings, including the frescoed Parma Cathedral and the pink marble Baptistery, and also spend some evening talking walks around the city centre.

Conference days

The PhD workshop started on Wednesday, 22nd July and it was a very packed day with diverse plenary and parallel sessions. PhD students who were at the early stage of their PhD presented their works on the first day, showing the trajectory they wish to follow. Highlights of the day were the keynotes on IFAD mission and the role of economics and FAO's mission and the role of economics.

The second day saw lots of full paper presentations which I found very informative and also opened my eyes to better methodologies and trends in agricultural economics. Very important was listening to the keynote on publishing in Agricultural Economics & Policy.

I delivered my presentation on the last day, Friday 24th. I talked on the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in a group of agroecology smallholders in southern Nigeria: The role of Reproduction.

Benefits and insights

This workshop gave me the opportunity to receive very important feedbacks on my work, both from peers and professors. I got to know of better econometric tools I could apply and better ways of conceptualising my studies. Insights from the keynote speakers gave me a huge motivation to aspire higher in the academic career.

The social gathering and social dinner were also amazing and gave me the opportunity to socialise and discuss issues with peers from different higher institutions in Europe. The EAAE teams were very welcoming and the organization was perfect. The communications were very timely and made it very easy to follow the programme of events. Importantly, I had the opportunity to receive correspondence even after the workshop on vacancies, academic positions, opportunities and possible avenues for publication of my work such as Q-Open journal and BAE journal.

All these would not have been possible without the grant assistance from the Agricultural Economics Society Bursary, for which I am most grateful.