

Report to AES Travel bursary

I would like to thank the Agricultural Economic Society (AES) for providing me with a travel bursary to attend the European Association of Agricultural Economics (EAAE) PhD Workshop taking place from 22-24 June 2022 in Parma, Italy.

This PhD Workshop hosted more than 130 doctoral researchers mainly from European universities or research institutes. The topics and methods presented and discussed were diverse, which gave a great potential for learning outside one's own research project. Four keynote sessions delivered valuable insights from Professors to early scientists regarding the role of economics in rural development, the future of Agricultural Economics and successful publishing (see Figure 1). During tea breaks and two conference dinners researchers could enter discussions in more depth. It was a great atmosphere to learn and network with doctoral researchers that share similar research interests.

On the second day, I presented the paper entitled "The role of index insurance on farm welfare and climate resilience: Experimental findings from Uzbekistan". In this study, we aim at better understanding *ex-ante* (*sole insurance coverage*) and *ex-post* (*payout*) effects of index insurance. Collecting data in lab-in-the-field experiments that try to efficiently include field context in a controlled lab environment, we introduce farmers to a marketable and non-subsidized index insurance option. Applying an instrumental variable (IV) approach and an iterated seemingly unrelated regression (SUR), we estimate effects of risk management choices. Our results indicate positive *ex-ante* effects on consumption spending, fertilizer input, savings and a reduced credit sum. Post drought, we find positive *ex-post* effects on all outcome variables of interest in lag 1, and these influences remain with diminishing returns in lag 2 and 3. We conclude the studied index insurance option to improve farmers' welfare and (financial) climate resilience in Uzbekistan's index insurance pilot region. Index insurance seems to meet its promises in the study region.

Due to five parallel sessions, the audience of my presentation was rather small (see Figure 2). Nevertheless, I received valuable feedback and impulses for further considerations. During networking time, I had several discussions on experimental methods applied or intended to be implemented by other doctoral researchers.

Experimental Agricultural Economics is an emerging field of research and it is important for (early) researchers in this context to network and learn from each other. This is what I did and which fully enriched my workshop experience. I am sure that the input received during these three days will (1) improve the quality of the presented paper, and (2) the created networks will allow for continued conversations and cooperation in the future. I am very much looking forward to that.

Thank you for giving me the financial support to travel to the EAAE PhD workshop!



Figure 1: Keynote session 1- IFAD mission and the role of Economics



Figure 2: My presentation in the session "Climate adaptation and farm viability"

Thankfully,

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