

# Thematic Seminar on Agribusiness in Developing Countries

Copenhagen, October 29, 2009 - Lecture Hall 1-01, Bülowsvej 17  
Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen (KU)

Agribusiness is recognized to be of increasing importance for development countries. Agribusiness research in Denmark is scattered and no network exists joining the researchers in the field and a better integration of Danish researchers working with agribusiness is needed. For this purpose the Institute of Food & Resource Economics (FOI), at the Faculty of LIFE Sciences, University of Copenhagen, in collaboration with researchers from Aalborg University and the Copenhagen Business School, and with financial support by the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN), invites researchers with an interest in agribusiness issues to a thematic seminar on the subject.

The aim of this thematic seminar is to:

- 1) take stock of the existing agribusiness research in Denmark
- 2) create a network within the DDRN framework of researchers with a common interest in research and teaching in agribusiness
- 3) outline an agenda for future research in agribusiness in developing countries.

The seminar will include two international keynote speakers, five invited presentations and 10 additional presentations by selected researchers. Researchers who are interested in presenting a research paper or an overview of research activities with relevance for agribusiness (from a broad perspective) is invited to submit an abstract for selection.

The seminar is open to all interested researchers. To register for the seminar send an email to Lartey Lawson ([law@foi.dk](mailto:law@foi.dk)) before October 15, 2009.

## BACKGROUND

The Faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE) at the University of Copenhagen is organizing a Thematic Day on Agribusiness and Economic Development on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009. The Thematic Day is targeting academic leadership, politicians, funding agencies, and researchers to address the strategic and political aspects of development and the role of agribusiness in developing countries. See <http://www.life.ku.dk/agribusiness2009>

As a preparation for Thematic Day the present Thematic Seminar on Agribusiness in Developing Countries will take place the day prior (Thursday October 29, 2009). The conclusions from this Seminar will be used as input for the following day's discussion the role of the Danish resource base in research and teaching.

## OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS

### Workshop objectives

An inter-disciplinary Danish research and research-based knowledge in agribusiness subjects is needed to actively support development assistance and partner countries' development activities towards a better coordination, interaction and collaboration among the interested research environments and the users.

In light of this we want to bring together researchers and practitioners from the Danish resource base to:

- 1) Create an overview of the state-of-the-art of Danish research related to agribusiness as a platform for future inter-disciplinary match making.
- 2) Expose Danish resource base to the latest developmental themes in international agribusiness and tomorrow's agribusiness research topics (two international key-note speakers).
- 3) Outline an agenda for agribusiness research in the coming years.

Specific outputs from the seminar are:

- 1) As short publication with a mapping of Danish research environments, the researchers and their publication related to agribusiness topics.
- 2) Delineation of the agenda for agribusiness research for the future, and identification of collaborative research and possibly teaching.

## Topics

Among the topics to be presented and discussed at the workshop are:

- 1) Performance of value chains and inclusion of small-scale farmers.
- 2) Global Value chains.
- 3) Innovation, management and entrepreneurship.
- 4) Supermarkets and smallholders in developing countries.

Keynote speakers at the seminar are: Derek Baker (ILPRI, Nairobi), Stefano Ponte (DIIS), Kostas Stamoulis (FAO, Rome), Ralph Christy (Cornell), Birgitte Gregersen (Aalborg University) and Niels Fold (KU)

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Participants who would like to present a paper or an overview are requested to submit an ABSTRACT not exceeding 2 pages by September 25, 2009. In addition authors are kindly asked to provide a list of their previous publications of relevance to agribusiness from a broad perspective. Notification for selected abstracts will be communicated by 30th day of September 2009.

## LANGUAGE

The language to be used in the papers, as well as during the seminar, is English.

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Professor Kostas Karantininis (FOI, LIFE, KU)  
Associate Professor Carsten Nico Hjortsø (FOI, LIFE, KU)  
Assistant Professor Lartey Lawson (FOI, LIFE, KU)  
Professor John Kuada (AU)  
Professor Olav J. Sørensen (AU)  
Associate Professor Lars Bo Jeppesen (CBS)  
Dr. Carl E.S. Larsen (LIFE, KU)

## DATE AND LOCATION

The Workshop will be held at the LIFE campus, Frederiksberg, Denmark October 29, 2009. A tentative programme is shown below.

## PARTICIPATION COSTS

Participation in the seminar is free and participants are expected cover their own travel and accommodation costs. The organizers will provide refreshment and lunch.

***The tentative program for the thematic seminar: 9.00-17.30***

Venue	Lecture Hall 1-01, Bülowsvej 17, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, (KU) Frederiksberg
9.00-9.10	Welcome and introduction to the program: Kostas Karantininis
9.10-9.40	Keynote address: Agricultural systems and agribusiness in developing countries Keynote speaker: <b>Kostas Stamoulis</b> (FAO, Rome, Italy)
9.45-10.45	<b>Theme I: Performance of value chains and inclusion of small-scale farmers</b> Moderator: John Kuada (AU)
	Invited speaker: Derek Baker (ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya)
	Presentation 1
	Presentation 2
10.45-11.00	<i>COFFEE</i> and networking
	<b>Theme II: Global Value chains</b> Moderator: Olav J. Sørensen (AU)
	Invited speaker: Peter Gibbon or Stefano Ponte (DIIS, Copenhagen, Denmark)
	Presentation 1
	Presentation 2
12.00-12.45	LUNCH
12.45-13.15	Keynote address: Agricultural systems and agribusiness in developing countries Keynote speaker: <b>Ralph Christy</b> (Cornell)
13.15-14.15	<b>Theme III: Innovation, management and entrepreneurship</b> Moderator: Henning Otte-Hansen (KU)
	Invited speaker: Birgitte Gregersen (AU)
	Presentation 1: Søren Jeppesen (CBS)
	Presentation 2
14.15-15.00	<i>COFFEE</i> and networking
15.00-16.00	<b>Theme IV: Supermarkets and smallholders in developing countries</b> Moderator: Carl E.S. Larsen (KU)
	Invited speaker: Niels Fold (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
	Presentation 1
	Presentation 2
16.00-16.30	<i>COFFEE</i> and networking
16.30-17.30	Plenary session summing up and conclusion on a research agenda for the future Moderator: Carsten Nico Hjortsø (KU)
	Dinner and more networking: Lartey Lawson (KU)

## IMPORTANT DATES and DEADLINES

25 September 2009, Deadline for submission of Abstracts.

30 September 2009, Notification of acceptance.

15 October 2009, Deadline for registration for seminar participation.

29 October Thematic Seminar.

Address for submission of papers and for further information:

Lartey Lawson: [law@foi.dk](mailto:law@foi.dk)

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